

THE TIMES



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THURSDAY MAY 23 1996

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Dancer performing a routine.

WANTED	43K
Analyst	43K
Director	72K
Consultant	80K
Manager	100K

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'Jaymee was special. She tried so hard and came so close'



David Bowen: no regrets about legal campaign

By CAROL MIDDLETON

THE father of Jaymee Bowen, the 11-year-old girl finally beaten by leukaemia, spoke of her last days yesterday and pledged to continue his legal fight over the treatment saying: "She will win in the end."

David Bowen said his daughter, who came to prominence as "Child B" when he took Cambridge health authority to court last year, had shown awesome courage and he had no regrets about pressing for the extra chemotherapy that prolonged her life.

On Tuesday night, however, Mr Bowen held Jaymee's hand as she

died in her sleep at the private Portland Hospital, London. He told *The Times*: "As I looked at her I just thought that Jaymee didn't deserve this. She deserved to beat it. She tried so hard and she came so close. She was an incredibly special person."

Jaymee had been admitted to hospital last Thursday – the evening she had been due to attend a launch party of a book about her life – for what was thought to be a relatively minor problem. Healthy blood cells donated by her sister had triggered a "graft versus host" disease to keep the leukaemia under control, but it had begun to attack her lungs, making it difficult for her to breathe. "If we had

carried on, her lungs would have been so damaged she would have needed a transplant and I was not going to put her through that," Mr Bowen said.

Four days later her lungs had started to recover, but by then the leukaemia had swamped her body. "It was too much for her," her father added.

In the hours before her death Jaymee, too weak to speak and sedated by morphine, had indicated that she wanted the television switched off and Diana Ross's *Baby Love* played instead. By 9pm she had lapsed into a deeper sleep and just before 10pm, with her sister Char-

lotte, 10, holding one hand and her father the other, she died.

Mr Bowen, 32, a former property consultant from Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, said: "We were all with her. She was lying there and just stopped breathing. I looked at the doctor and he looked at me and that was it. It was very peaceful. She didn't know what was happening and she looked lovely, just like she was asleep. She had this little smile on her lips."

Jaymee's mother, Alyson, who had been at the hospital, was reported to be in utter shock and grief. Peter Gravett, the consultant haematologist who took on the challenge of

trying to cure her, was also at the bedside and said to be distraught.

In March last year Mr Bowen refused to accept Cambridge Health Authority's decision that Jaymee's chances of survival were so slim that they did not warrant spending £75,000 on chemotherapy and a possible bone marrow transplant. He challenged the decision in the High Court but lost.

Last night he said he had no regrets, saying: "I owed it to her, however small the chance it might have been."

Jaymee: asked for music to be played

Taylor attacks 'production line justice'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice today delivers a savage parting shot to the Home Secretary, accusing him of bringing in production line justice on the basis of tainted statistics.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth, who is retiring from ill health, challenges Michael Howard over claims that judges are too lenient and warns him that minimum jail terms would vastly increase the prison population.

Lord Taylor makes his first public comment on the sentencing White Paper published in March in an article in *The Times*, and it is expected to be followed by an unprecedented onslaught in a special debate in the House of Lords today. Lord Donaldson of Lymington, a former Master of the Rolls, Lord Windlesham, Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, Lord Lowry, Lord Nolan, and Lord Lester of Herne Hill are all expected to join Lord Taylor in attacking the proposals.

In his article, Lord Taylor tells Mr Howard that there is "no merit in adopting a macho attitude regardless of its efficacy", and says that certainty in sentencing can be achieved only by sacrificing justice.

Jailing repeat burglars for a minimum of three years would either put them on a par with violent offenders or force judges to "ratchet up" other terms, hugely increasing the prison population.

The consequences of "pro-

duction line justice" could be seen in the humiliating fiasco of a previous criminal justice act which "collapsed under the weight of its own contradictions... after less than a year in operation", he writes.

"The Government's latest proposals suggest they have learned none of the lessons of this policy."

Mr Howard has said that he is responding to public concern about crime and that he is determined to hit serious, dangerous and persistent of

There is no merit in adopting a macho attitude regardless of its efficacy
—Lord Taylor of Gosforth

fenders hard. But Lord Taylor takes him to task over statistics quoted in the White Paper as evidence of the soft sentencing by judges.

The normal sentence for someone who burgles an occupied house is four years, he says, and the offender can expect to serve two or three. If these sentence lengths are unduly lenient for a crime in which there is no violence, what longer terms must be imposed for offences against the person? he writes.

Lord Taylor also cites White Paper figures which say that average sentences for burglars increase only from 16 months for a first offence to 19 months for the third. But, he says, the figures come from an unpublished sample of cases over five weeks in 1993 and 1994, and some of them relate to the time when judges were forbidden to take account of previous convictions.

"For the Government to criticise the judiciary for lenient sentencing when they were prevented from taking previous convictions into account by statute is wholly unjustifiable," Lord Taylor says. With those cases removed, the figures showed a bigger increase in severity than Mr Howard indicated.

The White Paper therefore misrepresents the true position, he says. "Quite apart from the manifest injustice of sentencing without regard to the circumstances of the case, the statistics relied upon are therefore insufficient and tainted."

Last night the Home Office said that without seeing Lord Taylor's statistics, they could not comment. But a spokesman added: "When Michael Howard has cited statistics, he has not gone into all the detail – he has taken a selection of figures because people don't want to be bombarded. But obviously they are accurate."

Howard's justice, page 20



Owen Oyston, the millionaire, who was jailed for rape yesterday. His victim, then 16, was "young, dependent and vulnerable" said the judge

Oyston jailed for rape

By KATE ALDERSON AND RUSSELL JENKINS

THE flamboyant millionaire businessman Owen Oyston was jailed for six years yesterday for the "horrendous" rape of a 16-year-old former model.

Oyston, 62, the chairman of Blackpool Football Club, who

lives in a 16th century manor

near Lancaster, was also given

a concurrent three year sentence after the jury convicted him of indecently assaulting the same girl in the back of a sports car.

He reddened and fought back tears in the dock at a packed Liverpool Crown Court as he heard Mr Justice McCullough tell him that he had committed "horrendous offences" for which he had

shown not a hint of remorse.

The judge told Oyston, whose personal wealth is estimated at £40 million, that he had hoped to use his power and influence to save himself and had forced the girl, now aged 20, and identified in court as Miss B – through the ordeal of a trial. "You were 38 and Miss B was 16. You were

Continued on page 3, col 1

Old bones crack riddle of Piltdown Man

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AND TIM JONES

TELL-TALE initials on an old canvas travelling trunk found under the roof of the Natural History Museum could finally have solved the riddle of Piltdown Man, the most notorious scientific fraud of the century.

A collection of carved and stained old bones to prove beyond doubt the identity of the perpetrator of the hoax.

Brian Gardiner, Professor of Palaeontology at King's College, London, today names him as Martin Alistair Campbell Hinton, a former curator of zoology at the Natural History Museum in London, who died in 1961.

His evidence, which he will set out tomorrow in his presidential address to the Linnean Society, is based on years studying and analysing the contents of the trunk, which bears Hinton's initials.

Professor Gardiner said yesterday: "I first learnt of the trunk's existence in 1988. I was already almost sure that Hinton was the perpetrator. Lengthy examination of the contents has now confirmed

Continued on page 2, col 5

Hogg downgraded as 'beef war cabinet' is formed

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR and Malcolm Rifkind yesterday took charge of Britain's response to the beef crisis, setting up a "war cabinet" to convince the rest of Europe and Conservative Eurosceptics of the seriousness of their threat to bring the European Union to a standstill.

In a move that suggested that the role of Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, is being downgraded, Mr Major established a new Cabinet group headed by Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, to oversee the policy of slaughtering and disposing of millions of cattle more than 30 months old.

The development comes after widespread criticism from farmers and meat traders over lack of co-operation and information about the slaughter policy, and a stream of Tory backbench complaints about Mr Hogg's handling of

the affair. Conservative sources say that Mr Major is looking more than ever to Mr Rifkind to front for the Government. Both he and Mr Hogg will undertake missions to EU states to explain the

Government's case but the Foreign Secretary will be very much in the lead.

Also in the new group will be Michael Forsyth and William Hague, the Scottish and Welsh Secretaries, as well as ministers from the agriculture, health and environment departments.

But the so-called beef war cabinet will be a core team of Mr Major, Mr Rifkind and Mr Hogg, serviced by a group of senior civil servants headed by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary. They will meet today and as often as necessary in the coming weeks as Britain conducts an intense diplomatic effort designed to produce a timetable for the

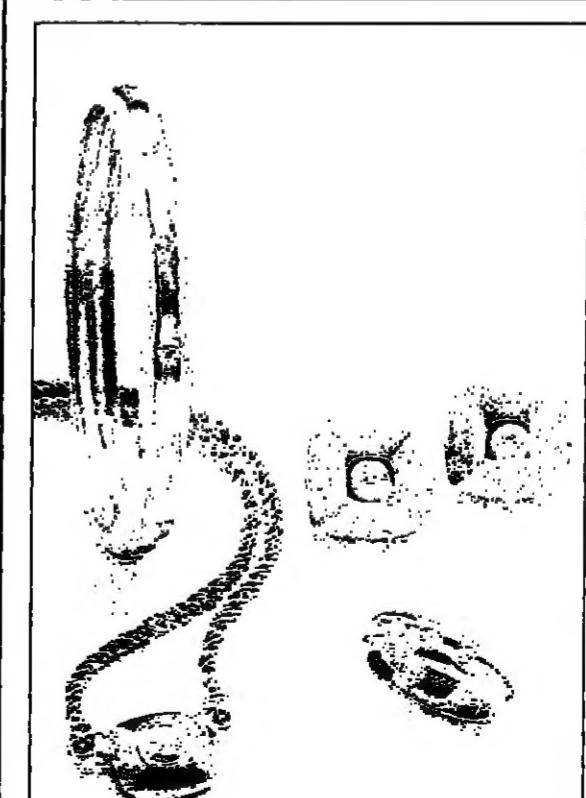
Continued on page 2, col 4

Clinton accused over sex case

Republicans accused President Clinton of trying to delay a sexual harassment lawsuit brought by Paula Jones by suggesting that as Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces he had the same rights as a soldier on active duty.

Mr Clinton dodged wearing a military uniform during the Vietnam War, but his lawyer, Robert Bennett, said the criticism was a partisan attempt to distort his

Continued on page 3, col 1



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Grande dame out-trumps them on the red leather

FOR the Baroness Trumpington to take her name from nothing more than a small village outside Cambridge is unfair. An entire metropolitan borough would hardly be substantial enough to serve as her namesake.

The noble baroness, winner of a *Spectator* parliamentarians' award earlier this year, deserves at least a county and arguably an entire mountain range for her name. Or perhaps a famous foreign battlefield: "Lady Rourke's Drift," or "the Countess Agincourt" would do.

But fate has decreed that it

is as Lady Trumpington that the great woman, who is (unbelievably) 73, takes the dispatch box in the Lords to answer questions, most weeks, as one of the longest-serving ministers at Westminster.

She does so with rolicking good humour and an element of self-parody that cuts even this late in her career, for a casting in a Christmas pantomime role pitched somewhere between Lady Bracknell and the Widow Twankey.

"Ooh," she once scolded a clever-dicks questioner from the Labour benches, "the no-

ble lord is just trying to get my knickers in a twist again!"

Over on the red benches yesterday, as the Commons wound down for its Whitsun recess with a riveting debate on the Civil Service, Lady Trumpington took the floor to handle a question from Lord Eden of Winton about proposals to site a waste-disposal plant on the Wisley Airfield site, in a greenbelt, in Surrey.

She said the matter had yet to be determined.

Up popped Lord Finsberg, anxious to inform her that he had once been an Environment Minister in the Commons and knew something about greenbelts. Lord Finsberg has not been long in the Upper Chamber.

Lady Trumpington paused, as though drawing on a long black cigarette holder, then

huskily observed: "I'm very interested in my noble friend's background." There drifted over the red leather a sound of a gathering of very elderly seals, barking. Their lordships were amused.

"When I lived in Cambridge," Lady Trumpington said, "I constantly had a thug in the back of my car, saying 'Keep Trumpington's Greenbelt.' The barking resumed.

The Countess of Mar rose. Though her pedigree looks very grand (*Dod's Parliamentary Companion* describes her as "31st in line, Margaret of Mar; created 1194, precedence

brought her information for which she hadn't asked and which she could well do without. "I'm not terribly good on dioxins," she drawled, and referred Lady Mar to a government publication.

"And can I have her assurance?" Lady Mar had asked, "that any waste disposal plant will have scrubbers in its chimney?"

Another pause. Trumpington peered at Mar. "Very tempting, my lords," she growled, in her large-gin-and-20-Gauloises voice. Basking on their red benches, all the seals barked.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heads told to sack bad teachers

Weak head teachers are responsible for 15,000 incompetent teachers keeping their jobs, the Chief Inspector of Schools told MPs last night. Chris Woodhead said that existing employment laws made it possible to dismiss poor teachers, but that only tiny numbers were ever sacked for incompetence.

He told the House of Commons Education and Employment Select Committee: "There is a satisfactory way of dismissing incompetent teachers. The problem is one of determination. There isn't sufficient resolution to do what needs to be done."

Judge charged

A deputy High Court judge has been charged with drink-driving after being stopped in his home town of Lytham, Lancashire. James Bonney, QC, aged 48, has not sat in any judicial capacity since being appointed last February. He informed the Lord Chancellor of the incident earlier this week.

Accidental death

The death of a burglar who collapsed after a struggle with a homeowner was an accident, an inquest jury decided last night. Miklos Baumgartner, 56, of Ockbrook, Derbyshire, fought Robert Ingham, 22, last December. The cause of death was given as pressure applied to the neck, leading to heart failure.

Bowbelle sinks

The dredger which ran into the disco cruiser *Machiavelli* on the Thames seven years ago with the loss of 51 lives has sunk, it emerged yesterday. The *Bowbelle*, renamed the *Bon Rei*, broke in two and went down 500 miles off the coast of Madeira on March 25. One crew member died.

British libel win

Graeme Sonness, the former Liverpool and Scotland footballer, won an estimated £100,000 libel award after *The Mail on Sunday* offered unreserved apologies for a report claiming that he took "secret and corrupt bungs" on the transfer market while managing Glasgow Rangers and Liverpool.

PoW's prize

Eric Lomax, a former PoW, won the £25,000 NCR Book Award for *The Railway Man*, a harrowing account of life on the Burma railway and reconciliation with his torturer. David Malouf won the inaugural international IMPAC Dublin Literary Award of £100,000 for *Remembering Babylon*.

Risky business

The Army is to create a new breed of recruits called "risk candidates", who can join up for short spells to get a taste of military life. Instead of having to commit themselves to the full rigours of a 10-week training course, they will be allowed to come and go before making up their minds about an army career.

After-pub drama

Radio 4 is launching a new late-night drama aimed at people coming home from the pub on Saturdays, the BBC said. *P Division*, set in Glasgow, will be the first broadcast, at 10.15pm on July 6. *Saturday Night Theatre*, halved in length to 45 minutes, will be on at 8.50pm.

Breast decision

Two healthy sisters have decided to have their breasts removed to avoid the risk of cancer. Andrea Stevenson, 25, of Attenborough, Nottinghamshire, and her unnamed sister, 21, have a family history of breast cancer. Their mother died from it at 31 and their grandmother at 26.

Royal role

The Princess Royal carried out her first Investiture on behalf of the Queen, further strengthening her position as a senior royal. She presented honours, including two knighthoods, to about 70 people in a 45-minute ceremony at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

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Ministers rally MPs in bid to rescue divorce reform Bill

BY JILL SHERMAN AND ALICE THOMSON

THE Government made a last-ditch attempt to rescue its divorce reform Bill last night, the Law Society having withdrawn its support and Labour renewing a threat to vote it down.

Jonathan Evans, the junior minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, has written to all MPs to rally potential Tory rebels to support the Family Law Bill, which risks being defeated in its final stages. He is also hoping to expose Labour divisions on the vote at the third reading.

Paul Boaneng, Labour's legal affairs spokesman, said last night that the Bill was "a dog's breakfast" which could not command support. He claimed that the Law Society's decision not to back it was the last straw. "This is a real body blow to a battered and beleaguered Bill whose days must now be numbered. The Bill is unworkable as it is. It is also unwanted. The Government must think again."

The Shadow Cabinet has yet to decide whether Labour should abstain or vote against the Bill at the third reading. Several Labour MPs are said to be concerned about throw-

ing out a Bill that includes measures they support.

Yesterday Mr Evans accused Labour of playing party politics if it voted down the legislation. His letter to MPs plays on Tory rebel fears about quickie divorces, reassuring them that the new Bill will make it harder, rather than easier, to split up.

It claims that the present system of divorce lacks support on all sides of the House. "It permits quickie divorces in as little as three months on the basis of spurious allegations, without the couple having to give any thought to the consequences of their actions," writes Mr Evans. "The Family Law Bill heralds the end of this damaging and nonsensical system."

The Law Society's decision to withdraw its support will put the legislation in further jeopardy. The society's Family Law Committee said yesterday: "The Bill, if passed in its present form, would create a confusing set of delays and uncertainties for people who are already suffering after the breakdown of their marriage."

Mr Evans, who spent two hours with the society yester-

day morning, accused it of being interested only in its own members. "Unfortunately I believe that this has more to do with the society representing the interest of lawyers than with any desire to see an improvement in family law in this country. I cannot see any aspect of the Bill that justifies their stance."

Last night several Tory rebels who voted against the Government on the Bill last month made clear that they had still not been won over by recent concessions:

Edward Leigh, a leading rebel, said: "One hundred and twelve Tories voted against the Government last time, it will be very difficult to get them all to change their minds."

He said the only way that rebels like himself and the former minister John Patten could be won over was if the Government introduced an amendment bringing back the notion of fault.

"What we want to see is a concession amendment which would allow couples to sign an affidavit that they take their view of marriage extremely seriously and acknowledge their responsibilities."

Continued from page 1
removal of the beef ban, and implements a policy of non-cooperation aimed at forcing the EU to accept scientific advice and give way.

Mr Rilkirk declared last night that Britain would not be "pushed around" and rejected claims that it was blackmailing the EU. As the European Commission confirmed its decision to press for a lifting of the by-products ban on June 3, Mr Rilkirk said he believed the reaction from Brussels was "positive and supportive". He said: "Of course they are not enthusiastic about what the Prime Minister announced. The crucial point is that we didn't expect the Prime Minister's announcement to be welcomed by other countries, but we are not going to be pushed around and that concentrates the mind wonderfully."

As Conservative MPs left Westminster yesterday for the

Whitsun recess it was clear that their spirits had been buoyed by Mr Major's decision to raise the stakes with Europe. Some Conservatives were privately hoping for a lengthy war of attrition with the EU which they believe can only help the party's electoral chances. Some, recalling the impact of the Falklands war on Lady Thatcher's 1983 election victory, see a "war with Europe" as the only background against which the Tories could recover to win an election, possibly in the autumn rather than next spring. Labour's caution will be underlined today when Tony Blair backs the call for the ban to be lifted during talks with the new Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, in Rome.

British campaign
pages 12, 13
William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Leading article,
letters, page 21

Major names 'beef war cabinet'

Runcie attacks Church reforms
By RUTH GLEDHILL

LORD RUNCIE, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, will attack the management of the Church of England today with implicit criticisms of his successor, Dr George Carey.

In tonight's edition of *The Purple, the Blue and the Red* on Radio 4, Lord Runcie says he is worried by moves towards a "management Church" which he claims is addressing an increasingly narrow constituency. His criticisms come as the Church prepares for its General Synod in July, when radical changes to its structure and management systems will again be debated.

The synod has accepted initial proposals to reorganise the central structure to speed decision-making. Dr Carey is understood broadly to support the changes, but they are causing increasing concern among the Church's old guard, of which Lord Runcie, a liberal catholic, is a leading representative.

Interviewed by *The Times*' Anthony Howard, Lord Runcie says: "My worry is that we are creating a Church which is better organised financially, better promoted syndically, better promoted by its enthusiastic and specialist ministries, but actually it is addressing a smaller and smaller constituency."

Steve Jenkins, a Church spokesman, said: "For the past five years, church membership and attendance have been stable, so that does not suggest a narrowing constituency."

Dublin admits blunder over IRA extradition

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH police yesterday asked Scotland Yard to submit extradition warrants on coloured paper after it was disclosed on Tuesday that the warrant had been "destroyed accidentally" by police as they made copies of it. In a written document.

However, Nora Owen, the Irish Justice Minister, admitted on Tuesday that the warrant had been "destroyed accidentally" by police as they made copies of it. In a written document.

The Irish Parliament had to be suspended amid uproar for three hours yesterday when opposition MPs accused John Bruton, the Prime Minister, of misleading the Dail over the extradition of Anthony Dunnigan. Mr Dunnigan, 26, is wanted in Britain for questioning about IRA bombings before the ceasefire.

An extradition hearing at Dublin District Court collapsed last month when a solicitor acting for the Irish State said that the extradition warrants from Scotland Yard were "fundamentally flawed". Government sources at the time blamed the British authorities.

As a result, Irish police have asked Scotland Yard to send extradition warrants on coloured paper in future so they can be distinguished from photocopies. A police source said: "It's very hard to make out the difference between an original and a good photocopy. If the original is on coloured paper, it won't be mistaken for a copy."

Irish ministers tried to play down the mistake yesterday in the Dail. Austin Currie, the Junior Justice Minister, described the controversy as "a storm in a photocopy". He added: "We understand that extradition is a very serious matter... But there is nothing sinister in this."

There has been a series of embarrassments over extraditions. In 1986 Evelyn Glenholmes, who was wanted in connection with an IRA bombing campaign in Britain, was freed after a Dublin court ruled that the extradition warrants were defective. In 1988 Patrick McVeigh, another IRA bombing suspect, was freed after a judge threw out the warrants because British police were not present to identify him in court.

Piltdown Man riddle cracked

Continued from page 1
my suspicions". The trunk was discovered by maintenance contractors clearing the loft space in the south-west tower of the museum in the 1970s. It came to the attention of Andrew Curran, a researcher at the museum, who mentioned its existence to Professor Gardiner.

Crucially, the two men discovered that the rodent dissections, pieces of fossil hippopotamus and elephant teeth and other bones in the

trunk were stained with iron and manganese in the same proportions as the Piltdown specimens. Traces of chromium also found in both are likewise thought to have been used in the staining process.

Discovery of the skull in 1912 at a gravel pit at Piltdown in Sussex caused a sensation as it appeared to provide proof of the "missing link" between man and ape and neatly tied in with prevailing views of human ancestry. But scientific tests in the 1950s proved that

the skull came from a modern human and the jaw from an orang-utan, while other artefacts at the site were all shown to be of recent date.

For years the prime suspect was Charles Dawson, a lawyer, antiquary and second-rate geologist who had unearthed the find and who had long yearned for scientific recognition.

Professor Gardiner's findings are reported in today's issue of the scientific journal *Nature*.

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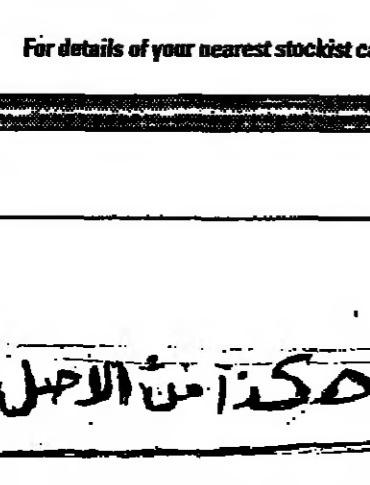
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"To be blunt, I had a lot of girlfriends ... sometimes Miss World contestants and I would go out"

Self-made man who felt insecure despite riches

By KATE ALDERSON

AN ABIDING belief that money and power made him attractive to women led Owen Oyston to be charged with rape. He was jailed yesterday for six years.

The self-made tycoon, who once had just £7 to his name as an unemployed salesman, boasts that he has never paid for sex. Throughout the late 1980s he was rarely seen without a young woman on his arm as he indulged in a life of fast cars, parties and racehorses.

His financial involvement with the Miss World contest gave him access to the contestants and a constant stream of beautiful girls flitted through his life, sharing his suite at the Park Lane Hilton or his table at Stringfellow's nightclub. He claimed there were too many to remember by name.

"I was divorced at the time and it was the last chance to enjoy myself," he later told police. "To be blunt, I had a lot of girlfriends over the years. Sometimes Miss World contestants and I would go out."

When police questioned him

OYSTON PROFILE

about rape allegations made by a 20-year-old model — a charge on which he was earlier acquitted — he said: "I didn't have to impress any one girl at that time because of the position I was in. There were plenty of girls available if I wanted to go to bed with them. I never paid anybody for sex, to put it crudely. It is something I have never done and never will do."

In 1988 he remarried his former wife, Vicki, six years after they had divorced. This failed to dampen his enthusiasm for models. In court he admitted affairs with four models between 1989 and 1993. "If I wanted young, beautiful women they were not hard to find ... I was as discreet as possible. I didn't go searching them out. These were largely young models looking for advancement and I was seen as someone who could advance them."

Ranked among the 400 richest Britons in *The Sunday Times*, the miner's son from Blackpool is thought to be

worth about £40 million. He made his fortune in the property boom of the early 1980s and bought the rights to the Miss World contest in 1988.

He lives in Cloughton Hall,

a £3 million 16th-century manor house with 50 rooms.

The property is on a hilltop overlooking Hornby, near Lancaster, and Oyston once kept wild bison in the grounds. A giant portrait of Oyston hangs over his bed, another dominates the en-suite bathroom.

Oyston is proud of the ornate marquetry on his Jacobean four-poster bed which, he boasted, was prone to shake noisily during sex. In evidence he said: "It can be quite unnerving. If you were on the bed having sexual intercourse, the canopy would move quite vigorously."

He began his entrepreneurial career as a salesman in a Saxon shoe shop but soon moved on to selling sewing machines door to door. He tried his hand at acting but managed to land only minor roles in *Coronation Street* and *Crown Court*.

It was in the early Sixties that Oyston stood as a Labour candidate in local elections in Blackpool and married Vicki Burns, a former Miss Blackpool. He became a substantial figure in Labour Party politics in the North West and is reputed to be the largest individual donor to the party.

The flamboyance cultivated as a struggling actor was exploited when he returned to the business world. He came to prominence through his chain of estate agencies which were the first to promise "no sale, no fee" deals and offer weekend opening. In 27 years he built up a chain of 98

branches based in the Midlands and the North West. He sold out to Royal Insurance in 1987 for £27 million ahead of the collapse in property prices.

At the same time Oyston was adding to his portfolio of regional magazines and local radio stations. He took a controlling interest in Manchester's Piccadilly Radio, Red Rose Radio in Preston and a string of radio, publishing and cable television ventures.

He came to the rescue of the

News on Sunday, the troubled left-wing Sunday tabloid. The paper collapsed less than six months later and Oyston lost a reputed £2 million.

In 1988 Oyston merged his

radio interests with the com-

pany behind the Miss World

pageants to create Trans

World Communications. The

venture was not a success and Eric Morley bought back his

share of the business three years later.

Oyston enjoyed success as

chairman of Blackpool Foot-

ball Club. He took over in 1987

when the club was bankrupt

and languishing in lower divi-

sions. The club just missed

promotion to the First Divi-

sion but still has plans to build

a £150 million stadium.

Oyston once said that he

would like to return to the

theatre "when I am estab-

lished". "There is a lot of

insecurity in all successful

businessmen. I've never felt I

made it."

Cloughton Hall, Oyston's home near Lancaster

Love at first sight was given a second chance

By KATE ALDERSON

THE WIFE

VICKI OYSTON, a former Miss Blackpool, has remained loyal at her husband's side throughout the trial. In court she has been flanked by her daughters Karen and Heidi and friends as she listened to details of her husband's repeated infidelity.

Weeping as she gave evidence, she told the court "I didn't know until the charges were put forward and I saw names of girlfriends I didn't know. Nobody knows at the time. I suspect."

The couple met in 1962 when Vicki Burns was won a number of beauty titles from Morecambe to Margate, using the prize money to fund her teacher-training studies. At 21 she became a local celebrity when she won *The Gazette and Herald* Girl of the Year contest in Blackpool and later reached the final of Miss Great Britain.

The couple married at Blackpool Register Office

because of Oyston's passion for work.

However, they did not lead separate lives. For 18 months after the divorce Mrs Oyston stayed at Cloughton Hall to spend time with her children. On occasion she stayed the night in the same bedroom as her ex-husband. They continued to take combined holiday and business trips together.

They remarried at Lancashire Register Office in 1988 but their reunion soon ran into difficulties. Mrs Oyston admitted that the relationship had been fraught immediately after the remarriage because of her liaison with another man. In court her husband admitted he had exercised double standards.

In the weeks after she remarried, Mrs Oyston believed that her husband had arranged for Peter Martin, a Manchester model agency owner, to have followed her by a private detective. The couple eventually visited a marriage counsellor.

Vicki Oyston: showed loyalty during trial

Praise for rape victim

Continued from page 1
rich and powerful with a strong personality. She was young, dependent and vulnerable. This aggravates the offence," said the judge.

"I do not believe she led you on in any way. I am, however, prepared to assume you hoped that your advantages, age, wealth and position would influence her to agree to what you wanted. When it came to it, she didn't and it must have been obvious she did not. As she so accurately put it: 'He treated me like an object and I am not.' It is impossible to know to what extent she has been traumatised by the experience of that night."

Oyston, sporting a silk marigold handkerchief in the top pocket of his navy-blue double-breasted suit, tried to whisper some reassuring words to his wife Vicki sitting beside their daughter Heidi in the well of the court a few yards away. After he was led to the cells, his wife refused to comment and Oyston's lawyers said they were looking at the possibility of an appeal.

Det Sgt Harry Harrison, one of the investigating team, said of Miss B: "She has shown tremendous courage in coming to court and giving her evidence ... I hope she can take some consolation from the fact that today's result can be seen as a victory for the average person in the street by showing no matter who an offender is, action can and will be taken when a person's privacy is violated."

PREVIOUS RAPE CHARGES

THE jury that convicted Oyston of rape was never told that he had at one time faced charges involving six women. Last year a Manchester stipendiary magistrate ruled that he had no case to answer on charges of raping one girl and indecently assaulting two others. In February Oyston faced two separate rape trials with the judge ordering that nothing could be reported on those cases until yesterday's verdicts.

In the first trial the jury

could not decide on the allegation that Oyston raped Miss A, although it cleared him of indecently assaulting her in a separate alleged incident. The rape charge was ordered to be retried before the jury at Liverpool which yesterday cleared him of the charge.

Three weeks later another jury cleared him of raping a 20-year-old model who claimed he had sex with her as she slept in his suite at the Hilton Hotel, London.

The jury of eight women and four men sat for 18 days and spent eight hours and twenty minutes before coming to their verdict.

Earlier in the afternoon the jury had found Oyston not guilty of raping another former model when aged 18 — known only as Miss A — at his 50 room mansion.

For the flamboyant busi-

nessman, the verdict marks the end of an extraordinary series of trials which are estimated to have cost £1.5 million in defence costs. He has appeared in three separate trials involving sexual offences. The earlier hearings were subject to reporting restrictions in order not to prejudice future cases.

During one of his earlier trials Oyston said: "I have always had an awful feeling about rape. Anyone who com-

mits rape deserves the worst kind of sentence. Any woman who suffers rape has an awful ordeal and I would have great sympathy for that awful experience and its trauma."

Oyston lured Miss B to his manor house while she was working as a teenage model at the agency run by Oyston's friend and one-time business associate Peter Martin.

Speaking outside the court after Oyston was jailed, defending solicitor Michael Burne said: "My client is obviously very disappointed at the verdict. He has always maintained his innocence and we intend to look carefully at grounds for appeal."

A spokeswoman for Women against Rape said of the verdict: "We are very glad that a man who has abused his position has been successfully prosecuted."



Oyston, photographed with two unnamed dancers, was rarely seen without a young woman on his arm as he indulged in a life of parties and racehorses

Teenage anguish relieved for jury

TWO women jurors wept as Owen Oyston's victim was forced to relive her ordeal as a 16 year old.

The elfin-faced woman, now with bobbed hair and a broad Lancashire accent, cried frequently as she described how Oyston had made her perform oral sex in the rear seat of a car as they were driven to his mansion in the early hours.

The woman, known in court as Miss B, then told how she was forced to watch him have sex with a young woman before being ordered to undress and join them. Oyston

THE VICTIM

had sex with her as she lay petrified, without asking whether she was willing. "He treated me as if I were an object and I'm not ... I'm not," she sobbed. "I was frightened. I was in a house in a bed with a guy I didn't even know, an old man. I was 16 years old and he didn't give a damn."

She had met Oyston while working for the now-defunct Model Team agency in Manchester, which she had joined at 14. He was introduced as "someone very important and dead rich".

Miss B did not disclose her ordeal for years, fearing that no one would believe her. She has not worked since the rape and smokes cannabis to help her blot out what happened.

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SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

Senior solicitor wants Law Society chiefs to be ousted over 'farce'

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FRESH turmoil erupted at the Law Society yesterday when one of its best-known past presidents, Rodger Pannone, attacked the leaders as unfit to govern.

He called a press conference to denounce the "meddling political regime" of Martin Mears, the president, which he said had lost the respect of decision-makers in government, politics and the legal profession.

"The activities of the Law Society are viewed by outsiders as a humourless farce," Mr Pannone said. "I warn my colleagues that, if the society continues under its present leadership, it will be marginalised and solicitors will risk losing the trust of the public."

He said it was imperative for the standing of the solicitors' profession that Mr Mears and his deputy, Robert Sayer, be removed from office. He urged candidates "of integrity and leadership skills" to oppose them in next month's

presidential elections. Otherwise a future government might consider removing the society's regulatory powers and it would become a "second-class trade union".

Mr Pannone, who announced that he was leaving the society's council after 18 years, as he had always intended, said he had not spoken out before because he had not wished to demean the profession by airing dirty linen in public over issues that could seem petty and irrelevant to the "great external problems of the profession". But he now felt "desperately worried for the future of the profession".

After the press conference, Mr Mears said: "I find it absolutely astonishing that people like Mr Pannone accuse me of bringing the profession into disrepute when people like him were going to put up John Young [who resigned as deputy president after sexual harassment allegations] to be president of the profession." Mr Young would

have been president last year but stood down after the allegations. They had previously been raised when Mr Pannone was one of the officers of the society but Mr Young was not asked then to stand down.

Mr Mears denied that the society was held in low esteem and said he had been well received when he visited local law societies. He also rejected one of Mr Pannone's charges that he had visited the Lord Chancellor only once since becoming president. Mr Mears said that he had seen officials and the junior minister more than once and saw no reason to visit the Lord Chancellor to repeat previous arguments.

"If Rodger Pannone thought I thought I should see the Lord Chancellor every fortnight or whatever, why did he not pick up the phone and say, 'You must pay these essential visits?'"

He denied that top staff had left because of him.

Tenneh fit to fly home next week

AN AFRICAN orphan who was flown to Britain to have a bullet removed from her skull should be fit to return home next week.

Tenneh Cole, 5, from Sierra Leone, had a bullet removed from behind her right eye nine days ago by surgeons at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich, who have been delighted with her recovery.

The doctors are looking at her being able to go home next Tuesday or Wednesday, a spokeswoman said. "They have been delighted with her progress and she is up and running about again. We are now trying to ensure that she will get the proper back-up and help when she returns home."

Doctors say the bullet could have caused Tenneh's brain to become infected and triggered sudden death. It cost her the sight of her right eye and much of her hearing. Doctors hope that this will improve with a hearing aid.



Tenneh Cole, with staff nurse Helen Shorten, shows she has recovered

We predict a company from over here...



Jury says sex with model was not rape

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE wife of one of the world's richest men went to the Court of Appeal yesterday to ask for a bigger divorce settlement than the "excessively mean" £8.8 million she was awarded.

Katina Dart, 37, is the former wife of the American multimillionaire Robert Dart, also 37, whose £489 million family fortune is based on the manufacture of polystyrene cartons. When Mr Justice Johnson made the award to her last month he included £2,500 maintenance a month for each of their two children and provision for her to charter private planes.

James Munby, QC, her counsel, told the court that he could not quantify the full extent of her claims, which are also being made in the American courts. However, when asked by Lady Justice Butler-Sloss: "What is your client realistically looking for?" he replied: "One is talking at absolute minimum of many, many, many tens of millions."

The payment ordered in April was conditional on her transferring her interest in a house in Kensington and relinquishing two Porsches, a Ferrari, a painting, and 1,624 shares in the Dart Container Corporation. She claims in her appeal, on which the court will reserve judgment, that the award failed to make adequate provision for her security and that Mr Justice Johnson was not given a true picture of Mr Dart's wealth.

The couple, who were college sweethearts, married in 1980. Mr Dart filed for divorce last year, claiming that his wife had refused to have sex with him since 1983 and had had an affair in Greece. The hearing continues.

The German Zeppelin Hindenburg (report, yesterday) exploded at her mooring mast in New Jersey, America, on May 6, 1937.

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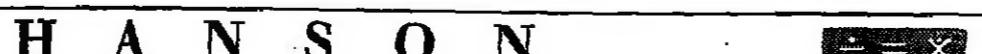
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WHAT THE COUNTRY



Sometimes facts. Then

مكتبة من الأجل

Times exhibition applauded for revealing new dimensions to 19th-century master

Demand for Degas beats National Gallery record

BY EMMA WILKINS AND DALYA ALBERGE

THE Degas exhibition opened at the National Gallery yesterday after selling more than 3,500 advance tickets, the largest number for any show at the London gallery.

As the public ignored the rain to queue for tickets, exhibition curators were hailing the show as a popular and critical success. Advance sales outstripped even the gallery's Rembrandt exhibition in 1992.

By lunchtime yesterday

WHAT THE CRITICS SAID

ART critics have liked the Degas exhibition. Richard Dorment, in *The Daily Telegraph*, was impressed by both the main show and a complementary exhibition of a small selection of Degas' own art collection.

"On leaving them I felt windows had opened on to dimensions of Degas' art I hadn't known existed. You would be mad to miss them," he wrote.

The Independent devoted much of its front page yesterday to the exhibition with a review by the artist Sir Howard Hodgkin. "Don't let the hype that surrounded the Cézanne show at the Tate suggest that this exhibition is in any way second best... this is an unmissable show by a great painter," he wrote.

Richard Cork, in *The Times*, said: "The full range of Degas' late work is here displayed for the first time. And it gives lie to critics who claimed that he had deteriorated into a narrow, repetitive old age."

Adrian Searle, in *The Guardian*, praises Richard Kendall's catalogue for "this marvellous exhibition" which illuminated "the often very real darkness of Degas' last years of production". He wrote: "Kendall's book-length es-

timed 1,200 people had visited the show chronicling Degas' later years, which is partly sponsored by *The Times* and will run until August. To prevent crowding in the exhibition's six rooms, ticket are limited to 200 for each half-hour. Those unable to gain immediate entry can buy tickets for later.

Michael Wilson, head of exhibitions and display, said: "We are absolutely delighted

with the initial reaction to the show." British artists including Peter Blake, Sir Howard Hodgkin, David Hockney and Lucian Freud have given their approval.

Richard Kendall, curator of the exhibition, said the show had tickled the imagination of artists and public alike. "I'm delighted because people are wide-eyed with wonder and pleasure. A great number of these pictures are unfamiliar to them and even to some of the specialists.

There is a feeling of freshness and excitement which is palpable in the galleries. There is a great deal of interest in the show among the art world.

"Many leading artists are going to visit, bringing their students and drawing materials. Lucian Freud will certainly come back. He visited last week and was very enthusiastic about the exhibition."

Mr Kendall, who has written an introduction to the catalogue, said that some visitors had been surprised by the audacity of Degas' works.

"There is a sense of shock among some people that the work is so bold, dramatic in colour and looks so astonishingly modern.

"People are used to thinking

The Independent

Some exhibitions answer questions others pose them. These two shows certainly belong in the latter category, for on leaving them I felt windows had opened on to dimensions of Degas' art I hadn't known existed. You would be mad to miss them

The Daily Telegraph

Degas' late work is a world of colour and movement, such scenes for an almost blind, as I called man fighting his indifference to the world around him and transforming himself, his meanness, his vile opinions, his false protective character, to this marvellous exhibition. Degas undresses himself.

The Guardian

say is one of those all too rare instances in which inquisitiveness, speculation and genuine passion combine with scrupulous scholarship, not to say poignant writing, to drag the most sceptical reader along."

of Degas as a 19th-century artist but his work defies many preconceptions." Stan Hayward, an animator who created the children's cartoon *Henry's Cat*, visited the exhibition yesterday and wondered if Degas had been influenced by early cinema. "He does a series of repetitive paintings, which seem very filmic in influence," he said.

Suzanne Cohen, an artist, thought that the size of the exhibition had been rightly judged: "You can look at each painting for a long time. Some exhibitions can be rather overwhelming. If anything, I would have liked a little more on his early work."

Bryan Atack, who had travelled from his home in York, said that the exhibition was better than the Cézanne show at the Tate Gallery. "It improved my perception of Degas, whereas my opinion of Cézanne went down after I went to the Tate. The layout brings you from the drawings to the paintings very well."

□ *Degas: Beyond Impressionism*, £5 for adults and £3 for students, OAPs, unemployed and disabled people; advance booking available through First Call, 0171-420 0000; National Gallery information 0171-747 2885.

BY DALYA ALBERGE AND EMMA WILKINS

THE exhibition has already been seen by many artists and writers.

The sculptor Sir Anthony Caro said: "I adored it. It was wonderful. I've always liked Degas, particularly the sculptures and drawings. I realised when I saw the catalogue that it was going to be good. It knocked me out. It's so incredibly sculptural, even though he's a painter and pasteller. In my view, he is one of the great sculptors of the 19th

century, along with Rodin and Maillol. He's so modern."

Peter Blake, the pop artist, said: "Some of the big charcoal were a surprise. I hadn't seen much of the late drawings. They are so extraordinary... You rather get used to Degas' dancers. But at the show it's suddenly different.

Reproductions look like pretty calendar pictures. They're not that at all. They're great big tough, wonderful things."

Leon Kossoff, the painter, said: "A Woman Drying Herself, borrowed from Brooklyn,

is one of the most beautiful

paintings I've ever seen. It's hardly ever shown. It's very large. Marvelous, beautiful and direct. It's encouraged me to draw more."

Allen Jones, the artist, said:

"I got goosebumps looking at them. Such a wealth of material. I'm still in thrall to the experience. The drawings were the revelation — a muscular style which one didn't associate with Degas. They showed him feeling his way to a painting in a way which I associate with the 20th century."

Marina Warner, the writer, said: "The work is very noble. One has to think of the old man, shut up in his house in Montmartre, not going anywhere, probably a bit of a

ORDRUPGÅRDSAMLINGEN, COPENHAGEN



Woman combing her hair. His work is so bold, so dramatic, so modern"

'It knocked me out... incredibly sculptural'

BY DALYA ALBERGE AND EMMA WILKINS

paintings I've ever seen. It's hardly ever shown. It's very large. Marvelous, beautiful and direct. It's encouraged me to draw more."

Julian Barnes, the writer, said: "It is a wonderful exhibition. I was specially impressed by the hang and use of a dark background, which would have accorded to what was probably in Degas' studio."

Anita Brookner, the writer, said: "The work is very noble. One has to think of the old man, shut up in his house in Montmartre, not going anywhere, probably a bit of a

hermit, working like a student, without much outside influence. It has been said he behaved like a voyeur. Nothing is further from the truth. These are very pure."

Jonathan Miller, the theatre director, said: "Every time you go to an exhibition, you see works in a new light... To see an enormously concentrated assembly of works by an artist particularly preoccupied with the human physique in its private moments of self-grooming fastens your attention on things which you had overlooked before."

Collectors compete for Hirst polkadot

BY DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE first important work to be offered at auction by Damien Hirst was sold by Christie's in London yesterday for £32,200, four times its estimate.

Adrenochrome Semicarbazone Sulphonate (1992) features no dead creatures. It is one of his multicoloured polkadot paintings that, to the uninitiated, could be mistaken for a colour chart.

Nevertheless, it inspired frenzied bidding before going to an Italian private collector on the telephone who fought off intense competition from at least five others in the room. Prices leapt from a £5,000 start, reflecting Hirst's international standing.

Underbidders included Ivor Braka, a leading dealer and collector who described himself as a big enthusiast of Hirst. "The price is good. He's a very, very good artist. This is not simply fashion. It has made the right price in today's market." Mr Braka has two other Hirst pieces, including *In and Out of Love*, which features butterflies and a table with four ashtrays and stubbed-out cigarettes. It has been reserved by a museum.

Other bidders included Gordon Martin, representing a collector in Singapore with an upper limit of £25,000; and Jonathan Goodman, a publisher who said he was trying to start a Hirst collection. He would have paid "half the figure it went for".

Collectors are prepared to pay more than £150,000 for sculptures by Hirst, 31, who won last year's £20,000 Turner Prize for his sliced cow and calf in formaldehyde, *Mother and Child Divided*.

As he has explained: "I like to cut things open. It's together but separated."

For some he is a master of gruesome gimmick with a shock-horror fascination for carcasses, blood and entrails. For others, he is the "Michelangelo of his day".

Photograph, page 24

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Lowestoft is cast adrift as Dutch interest goes flat

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE affair began on the chilly shores of the North Sea 34 years ago and blossomed into full romance as the fishing communities of Lowestoft and Katwijk in the Netherlands exchanged civic school and sporting visits.

The mayor of the sleepy Dutch seaside town, a Mr H. Dukker, said at the official twinning ceremony in 1962: "The two towns have so much in common that any link with any other town could hardly have been considered." Frank Jones, then mayor of Lowestoft, said: "I cannot think of any better fraternity than the people who get their living from the sea. There are no frontiers between us and the only thing that divides us is the sea."

For 30 years the two towns



deputy town clerk, Jan Mulder, visited last week to explain policy that they were ending the link with Waveney District Council, which took over from Lowestoft Borough Council in 1974.

The reason for the split is apathy; the 40,000 citizens of Katwijk see little point in civics with the most easterly town in England. They are, in short, bored with Lowestoft.

"There is little point in going on with twinning if no one is interested in it," Mr van Wouwe said. He pointed out that a campaign to promote travel to Lowestoft three years ago had aroused no response.

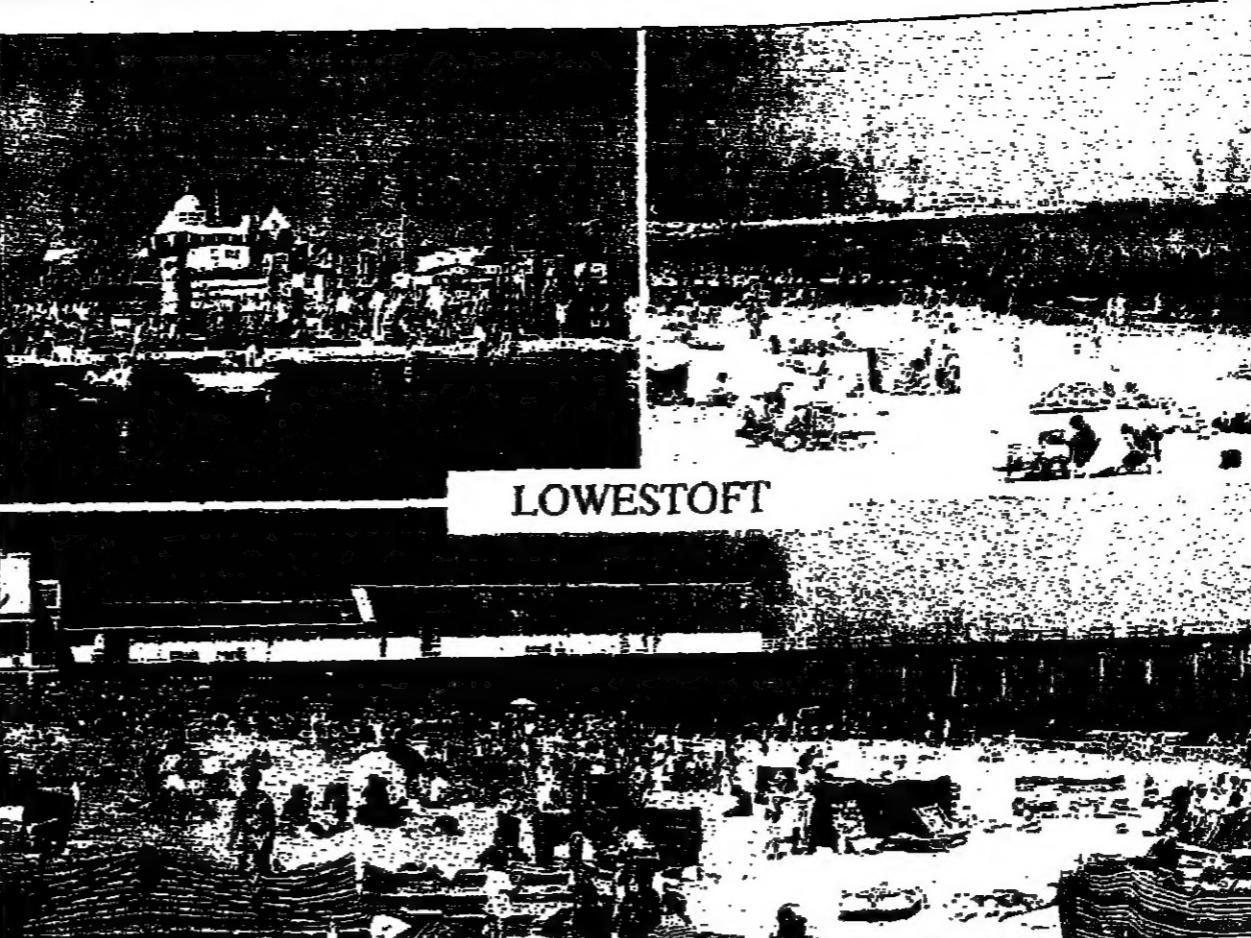
"Our ending of the twinning agreement is nothing personal against Lowestoft. We all like the town. But our council decided that a twinning agreement had to involve the community, not just the local authorities," Mr van Wouwe added.

"In the last few years there have been hardly any visits between the towns. We decided it was best not to have a 'sleepy' twinning. Absolutely no insult to Lowestoft is intended, although we have heard they are rather upset."

In Lowestoft, which originated as a Danish settlement, officials put a brave face on the news and discounted suggestions that Katwijk was seeking

**WAVENY DISTRICT
LOWESTOFT**
TWINNED WITH
X KATWIJK, NETHERLANDS
@ PLAISIR, FRANCE

Siging off: the town's Dutch link has been severed



Lowestoft's attractions, including an award-winning beach, have paled with the citizens of Katwijk

a more exciting twin, such as Brighton. Malcolm Berridge, chief executive of Waveney council, said: "They told us there had not been a response from their community at large to develop things further. The links started between us many years ago and things have changed. They seem to have exhausted their interest in us."

"Although, there will no longer be civic visits, I am sure the relationships between individuals in the Lowestoft area and in Katwijk will continue. It is certainly not ending on a

sour note and the Dutch will be most welcome to come and see us any time. I would not class what has happened as an international incident."

Trevor Carter, council chairman, said: "We are very proud of Lowestoft and, although there have been some knocks over the years, we now feel we are on the way up."

The Suffolk town has the consolation of being twinned with Plaisir in France. Mr Berridge said he had heard no suggestion that the Dutch considered Lowestoft boring.

"It is just not true that there is nothing to do in Lowestoft. The thousands of visitors we have every year would vouch for that. We never had any shortage of things to show the Dutch when they came over on official visits every four years."

He said the town, which has 60,000 residents, was not a cultural desert: there was the Pleasurewood Hills theme park, two theatres, a variety of restaurants, and a pavilion complex.

In any case, it was not hard

to find those in Lowestoft yesterday who pointed out that Katwijk did not exactly lie at the pulsating heart of Holland. It has 40,000 residents and is one of the largest municipalities in the dune and flower-bulb area. A vast modern industrial estate dominates the economy, which used to depend on fishing and farming.

The town has a lighthouse, a museum, a whitewashed church dating from 1460, the inevitable windmill ... and not much else.

A greengrocer who tackled a robber, fracturing his skull and breaking his ribs and fingers, will not be prosecuted, police said. Ken Dunn, 49, from Barnsley, South Yorkshire, had used reasonable force, it was decided.

Sentence cut

Bernard Eneria, 18, given six years' youth custody for his part in an attack a year ago on the husband of Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has had his sentence cut at the Court of Appeal to four years.

£3.5m court win

Silverstone Circuits, owner of the Formula One Grand Prix track, won a £3.5 million High Court settlement from its former solicitors Head & Esksine and Co, for wrong advice over the purchase in 1992 of a retail car business.

Buyout cleared

The European Commission has cleared the purchase by France's Compagnie Générale d'Entreprises Automobiles, which belongs to Compagnie Générale des Eaux, of the British Rail subsidiary Network SouthCentral.

Victorian bylaw could clean Squeegee boys off Brighton streets

By BILL FROST

POLICE in Brighton are dusting off a long-forgotten bylaw to rid the streets of a modern-day nuisance, the "Squeegee boy" car window washer. Prosecutions against three of them are already being considered; other forces, including the Metropolitan Police, are awaiting the outcome with interest.

Brighton's campaign was launched by Sergeant Peter Ewen, who bore the brunt of complaints from drivers abused or intimidated by the sometimes aggressive young men with buckets and squeegees. They are

reported to earn up to £1,000 a week, with motorists paying £1 for a 30-second wipe of an often clean screen.

Sergeant Ewen said that in the past some women drivers had abandoned their cars in fear at one notorious Brighton junction, Preston Circus, where many of the screen-washers gather. There have also been violent confrontations. In 1993, Simon Ferguson was jailed for six months after attacking a driver at traffic lights in the town. Sean Blackman, his victim, wore a neck brace for almost a year after being punched.

Trawling through the statute books,

Sergeant Ewen came across the 1882 Municipal Corporation Act which, he believed, gave Sussex Police the powers they needed to act. "It says 'no person shall, on any street or public place, for the purpose of selling or advertising any article or obtaining custom or employment, tout or importune to the annoyance or obstruction of passengers'. The word 'passenger' means road users who are definitely annoyed and sometimes obstructed by them. If the washer boys are successfully prosecuted they face fines up to £1,000."

One of the first Squeegee boys in

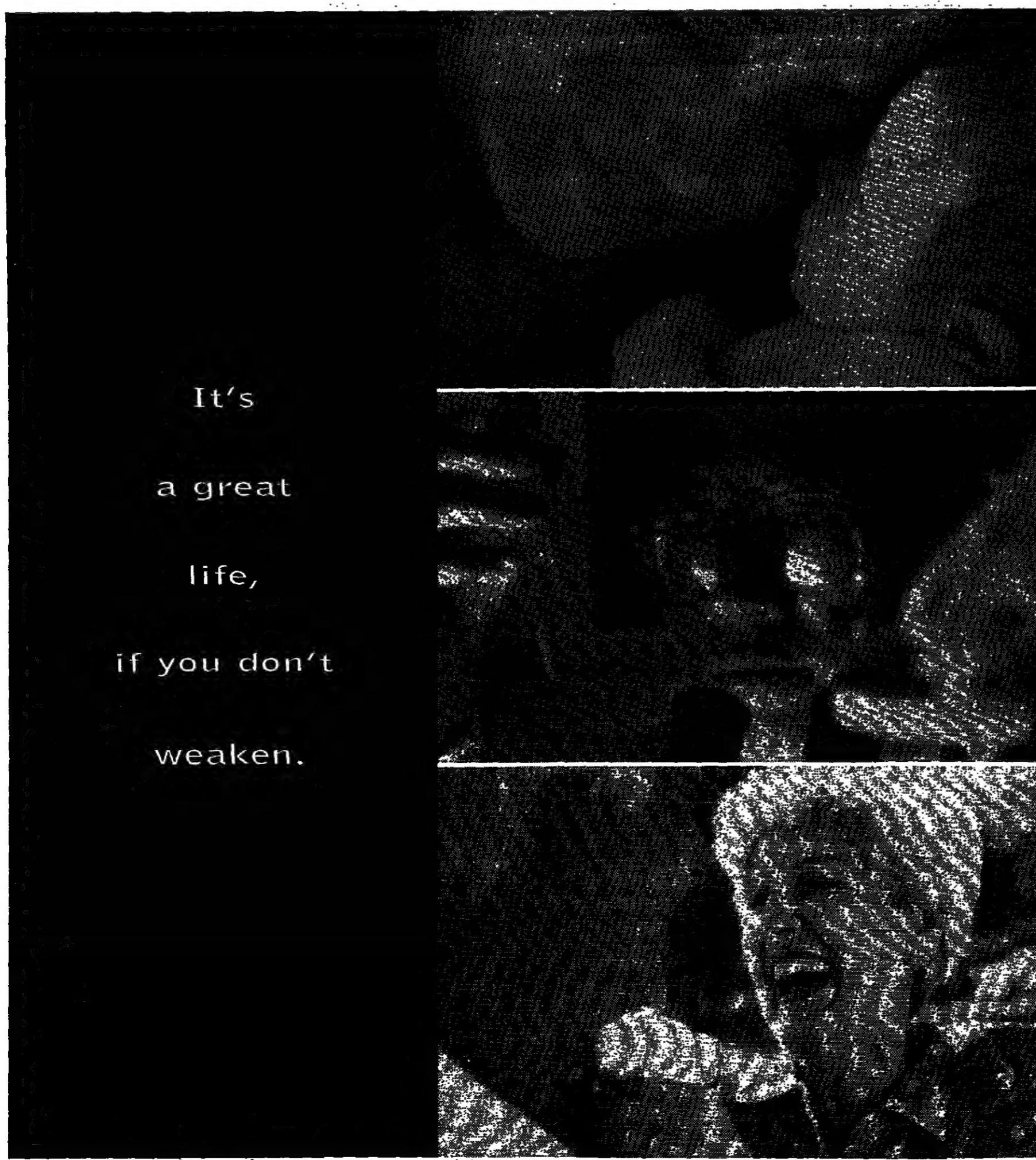
Brighton was Steve North, a then unemployed actor who abandoned his trade and went on to star in the successful ITV series *London's Burning*. "I did it for a bit of extra cash and all the drivers were really friendly," he said. "I noticed a couple of people have become aggressive in their manner, but others just make me laugh."

Another practitioner of the art, who only wanted to be referred to as Steve, denied that he and his colleagues were a public nuisance. He said: "If they do get rid of us with this daft old law, I reckon a lot of drivers will miss the service we offer."



A Squeegee merchant in action at Preston Circus

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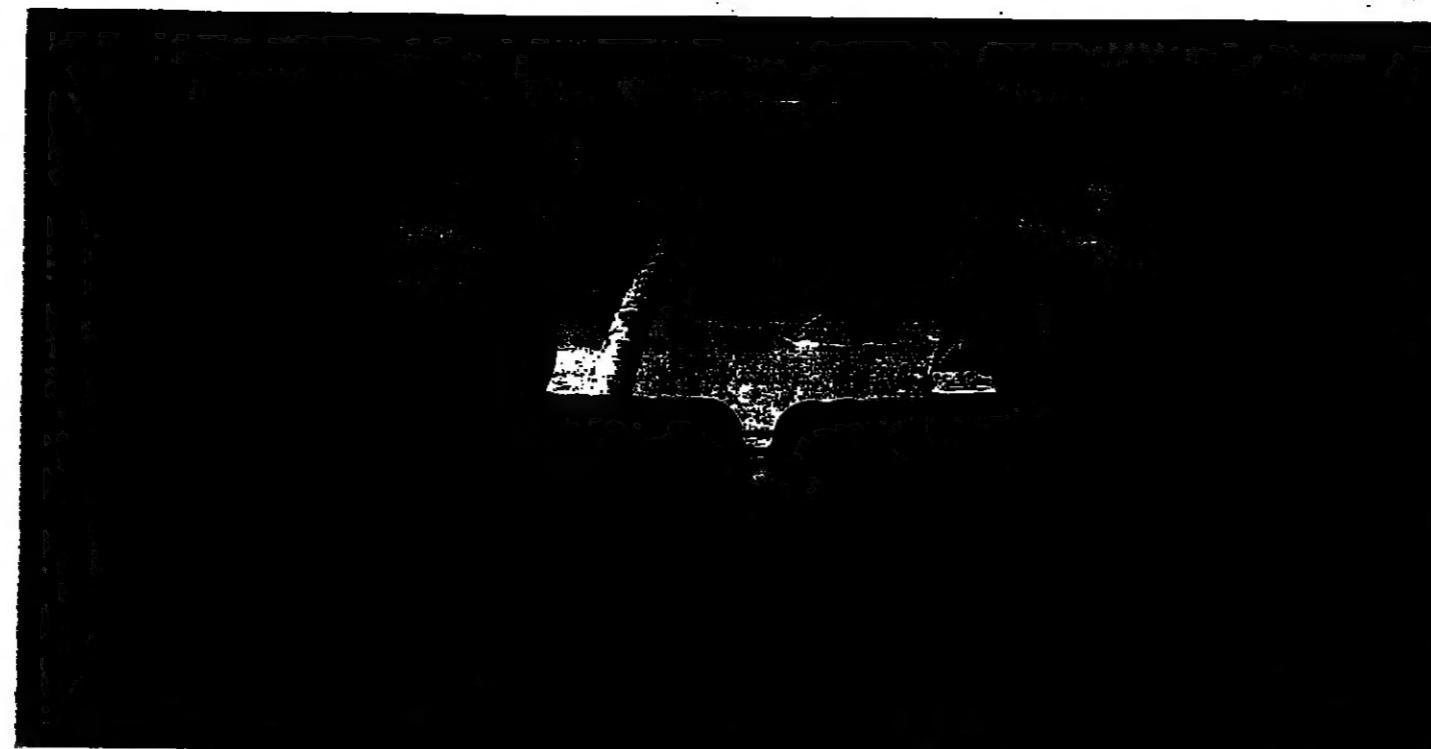
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Experiment gave pioneer Jaymee an extra year of life

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE private doctor who agreed to treat Jaymee Bowen, the girl who died on Tuesday night, took a huge risk. The experimental treatment — donor lymphocyte infusion — had been given to only a handful of children before.

Dr Peter Gravett, consultant haematologist at the private Portland Hospital for Women and Children in central London, decided to give Jaymee the treatment only after a chance encounter at a medical conference in Switzerland a week after he had started her on her third course of chemotherapy. Two specialists who had used the

treatment in adults persuaded him that it could work for Jaymee.

The treatment was opposed by the 22 NHS centres specialising in childhood cancer on the ground that it was unethical to experiment on a child who was too young to give informed consent. It was for this reason that Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission

refused to fund the treatment.

Donor lymphocyte infusion involves clearing the leukaemia cells with chemotherapy and then flooding the body with lymphocytes (white blood cells) from the bone marrow of a compatible donor — in this case Jaymee's sister Charlotte.

However, the treatment can trigger a

I've had four lots of treatment already and there just comes a time when you can't go on with it. You just give up.

reaction in which the immune system attacks the body with horrific consequences. Professor Ross Pinder, an expert on acute myeloid leukaemia at the Royal Marsden Hospital, southwest London, and one of those who originally treated Jaymee, spelled out what these were in the book *Jaymee: the Story of Child B*, by Sarah Barclay, the *Panorama* reporter who made a pro-

gramme about her last years. "You can lose the surface of the skin over almost the entire body. The cells can also act against the liver and the bowel... I read somewhere earlier in this controversy that dying of leukaemia was no worse than dying from the side-effects of experimental treatment. This is simply not the case."

The reaction is called graft-vs-host

disease and in Jaymee's case was kept in check until her final months, when it settled in her lungs. She began to have difficulty breathing, it became painful to swallow and sometimes she was so short of breath that she could hardly climb stairs.

Interest in donor lymphocyte infusion has been intense as its successful use in adults has become clear. The Royal Marsden has now agreed a trial in children. Had Jaymee sought the treatment six months later, she would probably have been granted it on the NHS.

Stephen Thornton, chief executive of Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission, said yesterday: "Medical science moves on and the decision we

took 12 months ago might have been different had we faced it today." Although the treatment bought Jaymee an extra year of life, she seemed less certain recently whether she would go through it again. "I'd give up straight away," she said. "I've had four lots of treatment already and there just comes a time when you can't go on with it. You just give up. Four times is too much."

Asked if she was prepared for death, she said: "There's nothing to be scared of and hopefully it won't be painful. I don't want to die, but if I do and there is an afterlife, I want to come back as a butterfly."

Body and Mind, page 18

Grieving staff deny that they abandoned girl

THE HEALTH AUTHORITY

THE NHS officials who refused to fund Jaymee Bowen's experimental treatment defended their decision yesterday. Stephen Thornton, chief executive of Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission, said he had been angered by suggestions that the authority had abandoned the girl.

"She had years of treatment on the National Health Service. It was only the particular experimental treatment that was requested which we refused. We never denied her treatment because we could not afford it, but because expert clinical opinion at the time was that it was not the right thing to do."

After the experimental treatment was completed, the girl's ordinary care had been paid for by the NHS, he said. "We are paying regardless of the cost. The care was needed, and that is what the NHS is there for."

Mr Thornton said the authority had been saddened by Jaymee's death. "We had been led to believe that she was doing pretty well, so it was a shock. We are very sorry and our hearts go out to the family. It must be very difficult for them. It has been a wretched year for everybody."

"The health commission has been in a difficult position. These decisions are

always tortuous. We have been very consistent in our view. If we were asked again, we would do exactly what we did last year, which was to seek clinical opinions of the highest order. We would talk to the experts in the field at the NHS's best institutions and we would then act on the basis of those opinions. If medical science has moved on since then, we would have to give it more thought."

Dr Ron Zimmern, director of health policy and public health, said the commission greatly regretted the girl's death. "It is not a question of 'I told you so'. We have to distinguish very clearly between treatments that are established and treatments which different doctors feel differently about. Every clinical decision has to be taken in light of the needs of every patient living in our area."

"Experimental treatment like this is a very difficult issue. After all, we do not know whether she would have lived for a year, as she did, without this sort of treatment."

Dr Zimmern said the commission would carefully consider the issue of health service "rationing" of treatment. "It is very clear that the health authority has to take these decisions against a background of ethical values."



Jaymee with her father David and sister Charlotte, top, who helped to prolong a life that had its share of smiles

Father's words console doctor who dared

THE CONSULTANT

PETER GRAVETT, the consultant haematologist who treated Jaymee Bowen privately, said that the experiment had been worthwhile because it had given her another year of life. Conventional treatment would have given her only a few weeks, he said.

The primary consideration has to be the patient in front of you, and so long as you are acting in their interests you are in the right. I had to look at all the options and pick the best one. I would do the same thing again in the same circumstances.

Dr Gravett said Jaymee's father, David Bowen, was glad the treatment had been undertaken. "He certainly felt the battle was worth it because of the amount of time it gave Jaymee. He packed a lot into that year. His parting words to me were, 'Don't let anybody tell you we failed.'

"At least he feels he did everything possible. There weren't any unturned stones."

Dr Gravett said he would miss Jaymee, whom he had known for more than a year. "She was good company and we got on well. I will miss her almost as much as a member of my own family."

He said he had grown more optimistic that the girl might be cured as the months passed after the treatment.

But the reaction triggered by the treatment, known as graft-vs-host disease, had settled in her lungs and threatened her life. Giving drugs for the lung condition had switched off the treatment that had been keeping the leukaemia at bay and it had then returned.

"We did not know how ill she was when she came back in. Over the previous few weeks she had been getting problems with her breathing but when she came back into hospital there was a good prospect of her responding and going out again. But when the leukaemia came back we knew there was no chance of it going away."

"We got very close to success from the technical point of view but it was not possible to keep in check the process attacking her lungs."

Of her final day, Dr Gravett said: "She was fully conscious and talking in the afternoon and then suddenly in the evening she lost consciousness and died a few hours later."

"It is difficult to say whether she knew she was dying. I did say to her that her chest was getting better but that her blood was getting worse. She never picked up on that, though. I don't think she actually thought that was the end."

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Lloyd accused of misleading the party

Labour drops candidate tainted by terrorism

BY JILL SHERMAN AND IAN MURRAY

THE Labour Party's ruling body yesterday deselected John Lloyd, the parliamentary candidate for Exeter, over his past links with terrorism in South Africa.

Last night Mr Lloyd said that he was "very disappointed and very angry" and that he would take legal advice on the decision. The National Executive Committee turned down an 11th-hour plea by his supporters, who had travelled to the party's London headquarters to lobby members at the meeting.

Mr Lloyd has admitted taking part in terrorism against South Africa's apartheid regime in the 1960s. He says that he was a driver with the African Resistance Movement (ARM) when it bombed targets such as radio masts and electricity pylons in remote areas.

He also gave evidence in the 1960s against an ARM colleague, John Harris, who was hanged for the 1964 bombing of a Johannesburg rail station, in which a woman died.

Labour headquarters said there was no right of appeal against the NEC's decision, taken because Mr Lloyd had "misled" it over his involvement in ARM activities. The executive had warned him in March that it would deselect



Lloyd: very angry and disappointed

him if he refused to stand down as parliamentary candidate.

In another move aimed at protecting Labour's credibility, the NEC disbanded the party's group on Hackney council in London after a dispute over the choice of mayor. Almost half the Labour councillors had refused to vote for the party's candidate.

The group has also been dogged by a series of allegations including vote-rigging and dirty tricks. Many councillors had refused to follow the Labour whip and there were claims that an unauthorised decision-making body called the Manifesto Group had been forming policy in private.

Labour headquarters has been conducting an investigation into the council over the past six weeks, interviewing members and taking written evidence. Yesterday the NEC considered the report and decided that the group should be disbanded for a week, losing all its influence over council policymaking.

The group will be restored only if the councillors decide to abide by the rules and vote together. All 39 group members will be summoned to a meeting probably next week, when they will be asked to confirm in writing that they will abide by Labour's standing orders and will obey the party whip. Any councillor who subsequently fails to toe the party line will be suspended.

One official said: "It was felt that in order to restore discipline they had to disband the group." He pointed out that four members of the group — the council leader, chairman, secretary and the chief whip — would not be affected and would still be able to take executive decisions. The council will continue to carry out its functions and all 39 Labour

members will continue to be councillors.

The dispute in the Labour group came to a head at the mayor-making meeting last week. Twenty councillors voted for Linda Hibberd, who was a leader of a campaign last October that won the reinstatement of a housing director who had been sacked for racism but subsequently cleared of the accusation. The other 19 obeyed instructions from the chief whip to support Sharon Patrick, who had the backing of the NEC.

Mrs Hibberd was supported by all the Tory and Liberal Democrat councillors and was elected by 33 votes to 19. Philip Pearson, one of the Labour rebels, said that he and his colleagues had been warned that they were liable to be disciplined by the party if they failed to vote for her.

□ The NEC ordered a re-run of the selection contest in Glasgow Govan because of flaws in the original voting procedure, in December. Mike Watson, MP for Glasgow Central, won the candidacy by one vote over Mohammed Sarwar. Mr Sarwar, a businessman, appealed and the executive concluded that many of the voters were ineligible. The new ballot will be held on June 24.



Exeter Labour Party members demonstrating their support for John Lloyd before the NEC meeting yesterday

Battle of ideas is not yet won, says Blair

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has admitted that Labour has not yet won the ideological battle on which a general election victory depends.

The Labour leader says that the main problem facing the party is to come up with inspirational ideas that are also practical and realistic. He suggests that the best way of achieving this is to go beyond party politics and set up a more open relationship with "the new intelligentsia."

In an article to be published in Prospect magazine next week he says

that values and ideas still provide the basis for policy decisions. "They give shape to a movement and meaning to a programme."

He cites David Marquand, professor of politics at Sheffield University, who said in a recent article that one of the safest rules of politics was that decisive victories followed ideological victories. Professor Marquand said: "Like armies sweeping through fortifications flattened by aerial bombardment, the Attila and Thatcher governments beat demoralised opponents whose ideas had come to seem risible or contemptible or both."

Mr Blair says: "Labour is not yet at that

stage. The synthesis we achieved in 1985, or the Tories managed after 1979, does not come easily."

He goes on to argue that the challenge for a modern political party is to recognise "difficult realities" while providing a programme and message which appeals both to activists and voters. "To put it another way: the task is to combat apathy and disillusionment with politics without sacrificing realism and credibility." He suggests that the only way now to free political debate and encourage new ideas is to use a coalition of thinkers that includes both politicians and intellectuals.

Army wives fight housing sell-off

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government came under pressure from army wives yesterday to drop the planned sell-off of almost 60,000 military homes.

The women warned ministers of "irretrievable damage" to Service life if the privatisation of the Married Quarters Estate goes ahead. They said it would harm morale, recruitment and the Army's operational effectiveness, and could prompt many resignations.

Under the scheme, the Government could raise £2 billion selling the homes to the private sector and renting them back. Several consortiums have made bids for the property and the winner will be announced later this summer.

Critics say the move has been forced on service chiefs simply to pay for tax cuts and compensation to beef farmers. Senior officers have made their opposition known and prompted the Commons Defence Select Committee to carry out an investigation.

Cherry Milne, chairman of the Army Families Federation, told the committee yesterday that the sale would mean fewer homes being available. Soldiers returning to Britain at short notice would be forced to live outside of army communities. "We will lose the integrated community spirit," she said. "If families can't cope in this new isolated situation they will take their husbands out of the Army or the husband will say 'Enough, I don't want to see my family going through that'."

Defence officials rejected Mrs Milne's claims, arguing that the sell-off would improve army housing and make its availability more flexible.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: The Commons rose for the Whitsun recess. Business will resume on June 4.

TODAY: In the Lords: Disabled Persons (Care in the Community) Bill, third reading; Low Reform (Year and a Day) Bill, third reading; debate on academic research careers for graduate scientists; Disraeli (Paying of Land) Bill, second reading; debate on protecting the Public White Paper.

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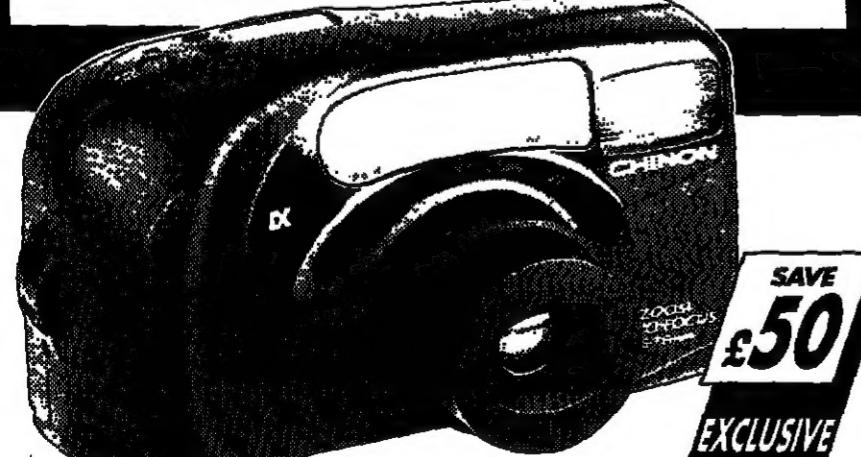
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Britain launches campaign to block Union's decisions

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN launched its blocking campaign in Brussels yesterday with an announcement to its partners to expect disruption until it won satisfaction on beef. National officials across the Continent and in the European Commission denounced the action, in terms ranging from pointless to blackmail.

While Europe was reacting to John Major's stark increase in hostilities in his battle for British beef, the Commission proclaimed business as usual and endorsed a new proposal for member states partly to lift the ban. Franz Fischer, the Agriculture Commissioner, was confident that the measure would pass. Even if it fails to gain the requisite majority at an agriculture ministers' meeting on June 3, it is likely to be enacted by the Commission alone under the terms of the European Union treaty.

Stephen Wall, the British Ambassador to the Union, told a session of the inter-governmental conference, the Maastricht treaty review, that he could no longer put Britain's signature to the minutes of their meetings. It fell to David Bostock, his deputy, to announce to a regular diplomatic council that "pending a resolution... the UK's ability to contribute to EU business is bound to be impaired".

Britain is continuing to take part in negotiations at all levels of EU business, but it intends to register formally its reservations on proposals being put forward for decision at ministerial level. It would then be able to block final decisions due to be taken on the basis of unanimity.

The first casualty was a European convention for dealing with bankruptcies, already approved by the other 14 states. Britain had been ex-

pected to endorse it after failing to sign it for several months. The next move will come today at a ministerial-level meeting where Britain will refuse to agree a joint action programme on civil protection in disasters. The impact will be limited, however, since Britain had been expected to block the action in any event.

Britain's existing position as the main source of obstruction to EU decisions limited the impact of an offensive that, on the face of it, more sweeping than any applied since

TACTICS

France boycotted the business of the Common Market in 1965. Commission officials and EU diplomats noted that the Union was unlikely in the early stages to notice much difference now that the Prime Minister had decided to withhold "Britain's goodwill".

"We are not impressed. It won't make a difference," said a senior Commission official involved in the single-market preparations. "We all know it is for home consumption."

Most acknowledged, however, that a long campaign would lead to heavy disruption — not least, at the EU summit in Florence on June 21 which could be effectively hijacked by the British crisis.

Some diplomats acknowledged that Mr Major's action could force governments to speed up moves to end the beef ban, but at a cost of destroying what remaining goodwill Britain still enjoys in the Union.

Much of the impact of the British campaign depends on the intensity of the guerrilla war against the Euro-machine. A full-scale work-to-rules could, for example, quickly jam the decision-making ma-

chine even in areas where issues are decided by the majority rather than unanimously. Most vulnerable would be the practice by which EU ambassadors agree that ministers will nod through uncontroversial decisions. Unanimous agreement is needed to determine these items, known in the jargon as "A-points". Subjecting each to full debate and voting would choke the ministerial councils.

British officials were uncertain yesterday of the level of resistance they were to apply, but there was no question of leaving an empty chair. One diplomat explained the reason with the French adage: "Les absents ont toujours tort" (The absent are always wrong).

Mr Wall, the British Ambassador, is due today to attend a regular session of Coreper, the ambassadors' decision-making committee. Among the items on which he may place Britain's reserve are decisions on implementing an accord with the United Arab Emirates and on "the conclusion of administrative arrangements on trade in textile products" between the EU and other countries.

Leading article and Letters, page 21



Stephen Wall, Britain's man on the front line in the beef war, is a confidant of John Major and widely seen as a Euro-sceptic

Loyal lieutenant in Brussels firing line

BY CHARLES BREMNER

WHILE the generals in Britain's European beef war fire off their orders from the safety of London, the frontline task of enforcing them falls to a slim, 49-year-old diplomat with a quiet style that masks a sharp negotiating bite.

The self-effacing manner of Stephen Wall, the British ambassador to the European Union and confidant of John Major, is the hallmark of a man who has won respect among his colleagues on the powerful Brussels council that runs the member states' decision-making machine.

"He's as sharp as a razor and on top of every dossier," said a French official close to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the club-like body of 15 ambassadors whose weekly meetings clear the way for government agreements. The practice in which many committee deals are later nodded through by ministers means the British ambassador has, in effect, the power to make British law.

Praise for his professional style is tempered by frustration among many continental officials over his role as the front man in what they see as the Government's long campaign of obstruction.

Mr Wall, who is also Britain's representative at the inter-governmental conference, the negotiations to rework the Maastricht treaty, was Mr Major's expected choice to succeed Sir John Kerr in the politically sensitive post of UK Permanent Representative when he was made Washington ambassador last summer.

Mr Wall joined the Diplomatic

MAN IN THE NEWS

had "the quaintness of a rain dance and about the same potency" and branded as folly the Maastricht timetable for launching EMU.

Mr Wall was in close touch with Downing Street before Tuesday's Commons announcement, but colleagues would give nothing away on his advice to the Prime Minister. A conscientious civil servant, Mr Wall gives little away of his views, though he is refreshingly direct and lacks the formality of the old-style Britanic envoy.

The only blemish to an impeccable career was an implicit rebuke from Lord Justice Scott in his report on the arms-to-Iraq affair. Admitting the one error, he said he "did not act dishonourably".

Major is 'playing reckless game'

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

Court case threatens consumer confidence

BY MICHAEL HORNBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN yesterday accused John Major of "breathtaking irresponsibility" over the beef crisis.

The Liberal Democrat leader said Mr Major was playing a reckless game with farmers' lives just to pander to his Euro-sceptic backbenchers.

Leading the British criticism of Mr Major's brinkmanship with Europe, he said: "This is an act of reckless desperation typical of the Prime Minister."

Mr Ashdown said he had been told by European coun-

terparts that the gelatine, tallow and semen ban was going to be lifted anyway and that Mr Major's "pathetic" move would probably be the only blocking point.

The farmers are horrified by Mr Major's short-term moves," Mr Ashdown said. "What they need is help over the culling programme and co-operation with Europe. The derivative ban is only worth £35 million; the rest of British beef is worth over £300 million. That is what we must concentrate on."

He called on Mr Major to resign if the full ban had not been lifted by June.

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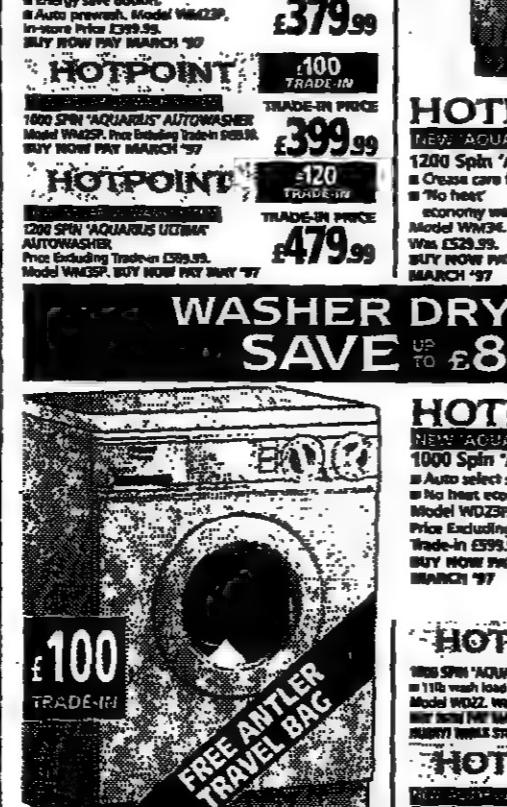
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Clinton under fire for attempt to postpone sex case

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS yesterday accused President Clinton, who dodged wearing a military uniform during the Vietnam War, of trying to delay a sexual harassment lawsuit by suggesting that as Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces he had the same rights as a soldier on active duty.

Expressing astonishment, two Republican committee chairmen were collecting signatures from others in Congress for a sharply worded letter urging Mr Clinton to withdraw "this ignoble suggestion that you are somehow a person in military service".

But Mr Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett, said the criticism was a partisan effort to distort an argument in the President's petition to the US Supreme Court seeking to delay the contested suit until after he leaves office. The plaintiff, Paula Jones, alleges that while Mr Clinton was Governor of Arkansas she went to his hotel suite where he exposed himself and asked her to perform a sexual act.

One of several examples advanced by Mr Bennett to give the President temporary immunity cited the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940. That grants automatic delays in civil litigation brought against military personnel until their active duty is over. The petition said: "President Clinton here thus seeks relief



Jones accuses Clinton of sexual harassment

similar to that which he may be entitled as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and which is routinely available to service members under his command."

In a statement issued by his Washington office, Mr Bennett said while the 1940 Act might extend to Presidents as Commander-in-Chief, "we have not relied on it in this case".

The two Republican congressmen, Bob Stump, chairman of the Committee for Veterans' Affairs, and Robert Dornan, chairman of the Committee on Military Personnel, insisted Mr Clinton was not eligible for any relief under the Act. They said the Act granted delays only to members of the Armed Forces and the US Constitution en-

sured the Commander-in-Chief was always a civilian.

Clearly seeking further to embarrass Mr Clinton over the case, the chairmen wrote in their draft letter to him: "You are not a person in military service, nor have you ever been."

Mr Stump said that by claiming possible protection under the 1940 Act, Mr Clinton was making a mockery of laws meant to help men and women serving their country in the military. It was a slap in the face to the millions who had served.

J. Thomas Burch, the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition chairman, said: "Bill Clinton was not prepared to carry the sword for his country, but has no hesitancy in using its shield if he can get away with it."

□ Fighting talk: The President joined battle with Bob Dole yesterday on what is fast becoming a central election issue – whether America should begin building a national missile defence system (Martin Fletcher writes).

Mr Clinton rejected his Republican challenger's charges that he was neglecting American security by delaying a decision until 2000, accusing the Republicans of wanting to spend huge sums now on a system that could be obsolete before any hostile Third World nation acquired intercontinental ballistic missiles.



Michael Bryant, from his cell, answers a magistrate's questions during the video link-up. He did not enter a plea

Tasmania video court demands gunman

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

SECURITY fears prevented Michael Bryant, the Australian mass killer, making his first formal court appearance in person yesterday.

Instead, Bryant, 28, the loner who killed 35 people, appeared by video link from his Tasmania prison cell. Looking downcast and dishevelled, he was pictured on a

television monitor during the 90-second hearing at Hobart magistrates' court, which received a bomb threat minutes before.

Dressed in a brown suede jacket and cream-striped shirt, he sat in a wheelchair in front of a camera installed in the hospital wing of Tasmania's top-security Risdon jail.

His thick fair hair combed to the right, his eyes darted sideways on several occasions. Asked by Michael Hill,

the few members of the public who were allowed into the court described him as vague and confused.

Bryant, who was arrested after going berserk with a semi-automatic weapon at the Port Arthur historic settlement in southern Tasmania three weeks ago, faced one charge of murdering Kate Scott, of West Australia. He did not enter a plea and spoke only a few words. Asked by Michael Hill,

the magistrate, if his name was Martin Bryant, he replied: "Yes, yes I am."

Questioned again about whether he understood the procedure, he said in a softly spoken voice: "Yes, yes I do."

Bryant, who was remanded in custody until June 18, was wheeled back to his cell in the prison hospital, where he is kept apart from other inmates and has an adjoining cage for exercise purposes.

Generals accused of sedition

DHAKA: Bangladesh's army chiefs, placed under house arrest at barracks here yesterday, faced charges of sedition as the civilian caretaker Government consolidated its grip on the military establishment (Ahmed Fazl writes).

After dismissing Lieutenant-General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim and crushing mutinous garrisons, the authorities told a Western diplomatic mission that June's election was on schedule.

Captain among ferry survivors

MWANZA, TANZANIA: Hospitals have received only 91 survivors so far from the capsized Tanzanian ferry MV *Bukoba*, including its captain, Rume Mwiru, 44, after Lake Victoria's worst disaster on Tuesday. Anguished crowds here still await news of relatives among the hundreds of passengers. (Reuters)

40 Russians die in Chechen battle

MOSCOW: At least 40 Russian soldiers were killed and scores injured in Chechnya after government forces attempted to storm the last rebel stronghold at Barnut, about 25 miles from the capital, Grozny. (Richard Beeston writes). Russia has failed a dozen times to take the base this year.

India bus bomb kills at least 14

DEHLI: In the second powerful blast in India in two days, a bomb killed at least 14 people and wounded 30 others on a bus near the town of Mahua, 90 miles from Jaipur, in Rajasthan. On Tuesday 13 died and 38 were hurt in a market bomb here. (Reuters)

Drive-in havens

BONN: Women-only parking places will become standard at all rest stops along the autobahn system, the German government decided, amid concern at increasing dangers for women travellers. (AP)

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##

Netanyahu claims lead as Labour gets sums wrong

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

WITH less than a week until polling, Israel's election was thrown wide open yesterday with the publication of a Labour Party document alleging that opinion polls showing Shimon Peres, the Labour Prime Minister, five points ahead of Binyamin Netanyahu, his right-wing rival, were inaccurate.

According to the secret research document published on the front page of Israel's leading independent daily, *Haaretz*, the true picture is closer, with Mr Netanyahu and Mr Peres running neck and neck. The paper said that the findings had been passed to Mr Peres, who is attempting to overcome the jinx of having lost four elections as party leader.

The politically explosive report prepared by Haim Assa, a strategy analyst, and two statistics professors, was ordered by leading members of Labour's campaign team. It claimed that internal party polls and public opinion polls published in the Hebrew press



had overestimated Mr Peres's lead by failing to detect the tendencies of the large number of Israelis declaring themselves "undecided".

The leaking of the document coincided with claims by Mr Netanyahu, 46, that internal polls conducted by his opposition Likud Party showed him with a 1 per cent lead over Mr Peres, 72, the first time that the Likud leader has been ahead since early March in the aftermath of the four Islamic suicide bombs that killed more than 60 people.

The publication of the new claims has highlighted the

uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the May 29 poll, which Western governments believe could be decisive for Middle East peace.

Israeli experts put the difficulty of predicting opinion accurately, even at this late stage, down to a number of factors, including genuine confusion among bomb-weary voters about the best way forward and the reluctance of many rightwingers openly to voice their support of Mr Netanyahu after last November's right-wing assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

The best reading we can make from all this is that despite all the campaigning, there is still everything to play for," a Tel Aviv-based diplomat said. "Everything could depend on how the two candidates perform in Sunday's TV debate and whether or not a mammoth new Islamic bomb is going to blow away Mr Peres's chances."

The thrust of political violence has curtailed the normal exuberance of Israeli election-

eering and given the whole performance a stilted feel. Both the main parties have cancelled planned mass rallies scheduled for early next week on the advice of the Shin Bet internal security service. The central issue which will decide the outcome of a poll regarded as the most critical in Israel's 48-year history is whether Mr Peres is able to deliver to the Israeli people the "security" offered to them by Mr Netanyahu, or whether the Likud leader is able to offer them any realistic chance of continuing with the "peace" initiated by Labour. The agonising differences of opinion

in both the Israeli and Arab camps were again illustrated this week with *al-Awsaq*, the leading Jordanian paper, taking diplomats and politicians by surprise by publishing a story under the main front-page headline: A Likud victory would redeem the peace process. Mustafa Abu Libda, its

editor, who has close connections with King Hussein, accused Mr Peres of failing to implement financial guarantees he had given to both the Jordanians and Palestinians and of being weak-spined and hesitant. The daily added: "Arab psychology would prefer to work with someone like

Netanyahu and a party like Likud because they are viewed as having the capacity to make decisions."

Shlomo Avineri, a respected Israeli political scientist, took the opposite point. "Both parties are going after the centre voters, but nobody is fooling anybody," he wrote.



Mr Netanyahu, in fighting mood, after a strategy meeting with his election staff yesterday. He says Mr Peres's lead is overestimated

Poll kingmakers target Bibi's colourful past

Binyamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, the right-wing challenger to replace Shimon Peres as Prime Minister after Israel's election on Wednesday, is campaigning as a family man, but is being dogged by his colourful past.

Although the Likud leader, a master of the CNN soundbite, is favoured by the majority of ultra-Orthodox Jews, his support in this vital constituency could be affected by large signs on walls in religious Jewish areas in Jerusalem and the crowded Tel Aviv suburb of Bnei Brak saying: "Do Not Commit Adultery."

The slogans are described by experts on the ultra-Orthodox community - which has often performed the role of kingmaker in Israeli elections - as a crude attempt to revive disapproval of the "hot video affair". This was the 1993 scandal Mr Netanyahu had hoped was forgotten, in which he confessed on television to cheating on his then new third wife, Sara, and claimed rightwing rivals were trying to blackmail him with a videotape, never seen publicly, of his extra-marital activities.

In Israel's often scurrilous media, Mr Netanyahu, 46, has attracted criticism for overplaying his image as a reformed family man. He has brought his wife and their two toddler sons, Yair and Avner, into the campaign at every opportunity, glossing over both Noa, 18 - his daughter from his first wife, Miki - and his second wife, Flair.

Calling for more, not less, investigation into his private life, the leading Hebrew broadsheet *Haaretz* argued it was necessary because "his familial image is of utmost political importance, and since he himself builds it up methodically".

So close is the contest that even Israel's top astrologist, Herzl Lifshitz, has admitted his inability to foresee the outcome. "Tell me I am a rotten astrologist, but - what can I tell you - I have not got a clue what is going to happen. I have never had this before," the stargazer said. "The thing I am most certain of is that terror will increase and that in January 1997, there will be war. What is strange is that I do not see either Peres or Bibi as Prime Minister. They do not have enough cosmic energy."

With all candidates banished by law from television and radio programmes in the three weeks before balloting, voters and politicians alike

CAMPAIGN NOTEBOOK

have been seeking relief from the diet of party political videos with a Friday night dose of the *Hartsufim*, the Hebrew version of *Spitting Image*, which has been one of Israel TV's biggest hits since its launch three months ago.

In one sketch, Mr Peres, whose vision of Middle Eastern harmony is seen by many Israelis as unrealistic, dons a virtual reality helmet. As bombs burst and flames rage in the background, the grotesque puppet version of the Prime Minister - himself a fan of the programme - obviously enjoys placid scenes from a tropical island, and croons a Hebrew rendition of the Louis Armstrong hit *It's a Wonderful World*.

Mr Netanyahu, often criticised for having no policy of substance beyond Likud's catch-all slogan "Peace with Security", was depicted recently with torturers trying to extract his programme from him.

The *Hartsufim* - the name combines the Hebrew words *hatsuf* or "cheeky" with *parisuf* or "face" - has offended many Labour supporters by lampooning Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated six months ago by a right-wing Jew opposed to his peace policies but still a dominant feature in the current Labour campaign.

"Yitzhak, Yitzhak, come, you must appear in [Peres'] campaign broadcasts," an angel implored the former Prime Minister whose political relations with his successor were often strained. "Tell them that just once, I want to see them winning without me," sighed the Rabin puppet, tapping cigarette ash off to a nearby cloud.

Although Rabin's outraged daughter termed the sketch the "height of bad taste" and the mass-circulation daily *Yediot Ahronot* reported the affair under the headline "Scandal", the *Hartsufim* appears set to go from strength to strength whoever becomes Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister.

Latest figures show almost a quarter of all households tune into the 20-minute programme and the producers say that some disgruntled politicians, not yet sent up, have offered cash to have puppets, however distorted, made up in their own likeness.

CHRISTOPHER WALKER



BUY A MINOLTA ZOOM COMPACT.

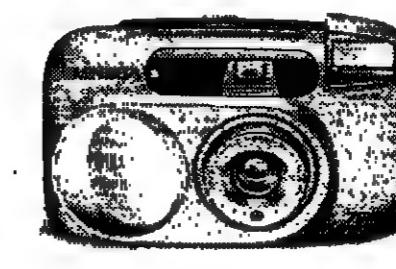
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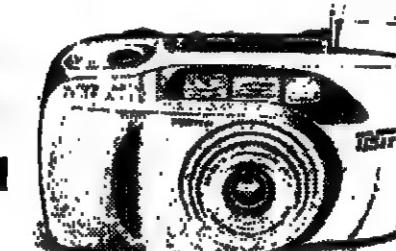
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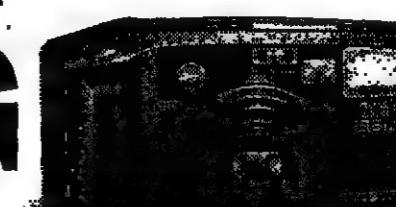
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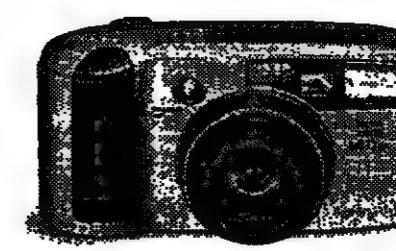
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I want to be in the pictures

Why does Virginia Bottomley have such a negative image? Joe Joseph asks

VIRGINIA Bottomley has a mystical talent for selecting the sort of photo opportunities that would make ordinary people like you and me look a little foolish but which, somehow, manage to make her look just completely barking.

Yesterday she turned up in our newspapers again, grinning madly at us from a Mad Hatter's Tea Party in Hyde Park. The idea was to launch a programme of free summer entertainment in London's Royal Parks. The National Heritage Secretary was sitting, sipping tea, between the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. It could have been a scene from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. It could have been a still from *Spitting Image*. You had to read the caption to be certain.

Why does she do this? Either she is game, or gullible. Or, as her critics allege, so greedy for publicity that she would attend the opening of an envelope. In case anyone is running low on stock pictures of our Ginny, she even arranges her own photo opportunity every summer on the Isle of Wight, posing with her entire extended family, the Garnetts.

As in most of her posed snaps, Ginny is always enjoying herself, licking a lolly, wearing a silly hat, throwing a member of the invited press into the water, grimacing jokily at a brother wearing a T-shirt that reads "League Against Powerful Women".

A year ago, Bottomley — who was still Health Secretary at the time — and the then Heritage Secretary Stephen Dorrell offered themselves to Fleet Street's cameras riding a tandem in Trafalgar Square. Why? To promote the benefits of cycling, obviously. Luckily, the patron saint of newspaper caption writers arranged it so that Central Office failed to provide Bottomley with any handlebars — a godsend with a big vote on NHS reforms on the horizon.

In February, Virginia was photographed — willingly — blowing into a lur, a sort of traditional Viking horn. It was to mark the launch of the Jorvik Festival on the River Ouse in York. Accompanied by a costumed Viking, she looked



The many faces of Virginia: colleagues call her bossy and ruthless, *Spitting Image* casts her as a bimbo, and those who call her 'attractive' make it sound like an insult

as if she might have been summoned to shift a blockage in some antique Viking plumbing. If you were being charitable you would say that her face in full blow, reminded you of Dizzy Gillespie's.

It's not that Bottomley is alone in making such photographic gaffes — remember John Gummer stuffing a hamburger down his daughter in 1990 to allay fears of mad cow disease infecting humans? Remember Neil and Glenys Kinnock's romantic stroll along Brighton beach in 1983, when Neil lost his footing as he struggled to pull Glenys from the unruly surf?

But Bottomley is beginning to show plenty of clear water between herself and her closest rival. Her

move to the Heritage Department from health has at least quadrupled her opportunities to be photographed by paparazzi, posing alongside actors, artists and celebrities as she flits from gallery opening to film premiere.

But all these photos may yield an even crueler harvest in years to come. Time can play tricks with archives: files go missing, pages of books flutter free, captions get detached from photos.

So imagine when historians in the year 2006 are looking back and researching the life and times of Virginia Bottomley MP, and they are trying to divine something of her character from a sheaf of old photos that are no longer attached

to any of their explanatory captions: what will they make of Virginia goofing around with Postman Pat and Dennis the Menace at Waterloo station? Of her giving blood surrounded by cameras? Of sweeping the beach at Bognor with a huge broom? They might wonder: did MPs have to take Saturday jobs?

Arriving at the Cannes Film Festival last week to fly the flag for Britain, Bottomley wore pale blue jacket, quilted blue handbag, pearls, court shoes, neckscarf — perfect for canasta with the Wonka's Guild but a bit understated for Cannes. She actually posed for fewer snaps than normal. The reason? Bottomley was convinced

she was being followed by a crazed stalker wearing glasses and with ginger hair. It turned out to be Denis Pennis of BBC2's *Sunday Show*, who pounces on celebrities, asking insane questions.

If the aim of all her posing is to boost her image, it hasn't worked. Polls frequently judge her to be Britain's most insincere politician. In one poll that tested reactions to alternative Tory leaders, she proved less popular than Heseltine, Hurd, Clarke or Portillo, all of whom ranked below John Major.

Spitting Image casts her as a bimbo. Some call her bossy, ruthless. Others call her mannish. Even those who call her 'attractive' make it sound like an insult.

She can be just as blunt. This is a woman who at the age of six, according to her father, "kicked the *au pair* out of the kitchen and began cooking the family breakfast herself" because the *au pair* wasn't doing it properly. The only surprise about this story is that the young Ginny didn't have the presence of mind to call a press conference to announce the dismissal.

Surprising to us, maybe, but apparently not to her. "The fact that some people think I'm pushy is very odd," she said last month in a BBC documentary, *Ladies Of The House*. "I'm quite a decent person one way and another." Of course she is. And what's more, she's got the pictures to prove it.

Kicking up a rumpus

Why Barcelona's revolting over a soccer sacking

ELEGANT Barcelona is in the grip of a revolt. Fans are screaming their displeasure in the streets and the newspapers after the city's football club sacked Johan Cruyff, its Dutch coach, on Saturday, and replaced him with England's Bobby Robson.

Mr Cruyff, the most successful coach in the club's history, is a Catalan icon, having coached the squad since 1983 and been a player for five years. Now he is threatening the club's president, Josep Luis Nunez, with a penalty shootout at an industrial tribunal.

Ever since Señor Nunez secured Mr Cruyff's coaching services, the Dutchman has refused to discuss football with the club's board and banned the president from the players' dressing-room.

As long as Mr Cruyff ensured that the club's cupboards were teeming with trophies, Señor Nunez was disposed to tolerate his coach's "absence of courtesy".

In his pomp, Mr Cruyff coached Barcelona to its first European Cup, and to four successive Spanish League titles between 1991 and 1994.

But Barcelona has since suffered a couple of very poor seasons: so Señor Nunez has decided that since he had neither cups nor courtesy from the coach, it was time to say *adios* to Mr Cruyff.

BARCELONA'S passionate football fans, however, are outraged. On Sunday, when Señor Nunez was spotted in the directors' box, halfway through a match, thousands of spectators waved white handkerchiefs furiously at him, in a traditional Spanish gesture of contempt.

The passion will take long to die down. "Cruyff si, Nunez no", screamed hundreds of fans this week. "Robson, el inglés, had better be careful next season," one of them said. Is Mr Robson listening?

TUNKU VARADARAJAN

Giles Whittell on a book that tells women to start behaving badly

True love terrors

Right when he turns up on her doorstep.

Venus in Spurs, published in America, argues that women often pursue long-term commitment in their romantic lives only because

they have been taught to. Deep down, it says, they are just as scared of it as men. Ms Gillooly's solution? Don't abandon all hope of connubial bliss, but concentrate on finding yourself first.

Subtitled "Why you Head for the Hills When Love Comes to Town", the book concentrates largely on why Ms Gillooly did precisely this during her twenties, when her life seemed a roller-coaster ride of misjudged seduction attempts and cancelled second dates. She was miserable. But it was only when "The One" (he is not named) professed unconditional love that she panicked, even piling on weight to put him off.

The story had a happy ending, though. So sincere was The One that his devotion to Gillooly survived her weight-gain, which she came to see as a symptom of "commitment phobia".

Her advice to all women similarly afflicted is to binge, have one-night stands and generally behave badly — something, she argues, that women have missed out on. In the process you will find yourself and happiness. You may scoff, but it seems to have worked for her.

TAKE YOUR PARTNERS



Dancing towards the Olympics — but is it sport?
Page 46

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Howard's production line justice

**Lord Chief Justice Taylor
condemns minimum sentences**

Last October, Michael Howard announced to the Conservative Party conference his proposals for mandatory life sentences for those convicted for a second time of violent, sexual or drugs offences, and for stiff minimum sentences for those convicted for a third time of domestic burglary. The details have now been set out in a White Paper, and will be debated in the Lords today.

There is no doubt that the Home Secretary has responded to wide public concern, and that there is considerable support for his objectives. Everyone deplores the apparently relentless rise of crime in our society, and in particular of crimes committed again and again by those for whom it has become a way of life.

But there is no evidence that Mr Howard's proposals will achieve his aims. On the contrary, those who actually work in the system — lawyers, judges, probation and prison officers — are clear that they will not. There is no merit in adopting a macho attitude regardless of its efficacy. The experience of minimum and mandatory sentences in America has been that they clog up the courts and prisons while actually reducing the chances of convicting professional criminals by drastically reducing the number of guilty pleas.

The proponents of minimum sentences claim three benefits for their scheme: certainty, severity and progression (in that repeat offences will attract ever-harder penalties). Certainty in sentencing can be achieved only by sacrificing justice. Individual crimes vary almost infinitely, as do individual criminals. The task of the judge is to tailor the sentence to the individual case to impose a punishment which not only produces the right mix of punishment and opportunity for rehabilitation, but also provides an apt and fitting mark of the wrong which has been done — both to the victim and to society.

The consequences of "production-line" justice — of sentencing by rule or by formula — were vividly demonstrated by the humiliating fiasco of the Unit Five system, which collapsed under the weight of its own contradictions three years ago, after less than a year in operation. The Government's latest proposals suggest that it has learnt none of the lessons of this policy failure.

On the contrary, it proposes that all those convicted on three separate occasions of domestic burglary, however modest the value of the theft and however long the lapse of time, should receive an automatic three-year "real time" prison sentence (equivalent to 4½ years under the present law). No account would be taken of whether the criminal was before the court for three offences or 30, how much time had passed between those offences, whether they involved sophisticated planning or drunken opportunism, or a host of other factors (not least the effect on the victims).

The advocates of greater severity start from the proposition that judges and magistrates are currently too lenient in sentencing burglars. I have no doubt that what mainly

deters criminals is the real likelihood of detection and arrest, not the theoretical possibility of incarceration for three rather than two years. Since at present the chances of detection of a domestic burglary are at best about three in 20, imposing minimum sentences of three years for those few offences that come to court is unlikely to reduce crime.

But, more crucially, is there any truth in the charge that the courts are too lenient with domestic burglars? The usual tariff after conviction at a contested Crown Court trial for burglary of a dwelling is three years if it is unoccupied, four if occupied. Considerably longer terms apply for aggravated burglaries, in which violence is used. In "real time", this range is equivalent to two to three years in prison, although it can be discounted for a guilty plea, in accordance with the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, and mitigated by factors such as previous good character.

If these sentence lengths are unduly lenient for a crime which involves no violence, what longer terms must we impose for offences against the person? One of the many anomalies these proposals would create is that the minimum sentence for a burglary would become as severe as — or even greater than — the current average sentence actually served for serious crimes of violence, even including rape. Either that, or the intention is to ratchet up all prison sentences in order to maintain a sensible relation between the penalty imposed for different crimes — so enormously increasing the already very large (and expensive) projections of the prison population.

The final charge is that there is insufficient progression in sentencing severity; that sentences do not increase as they should as criminal offend repeatedly. The White Paper figures purport to show that average sentences increase only from 16 months for a first offence to 19 months for a third offence. Yet some of these figures are from a period when judges were prevented by statute from taking account of any of a criminal's offences but the two most recent. So for the Government to criticise the judiciary for leniency is wholly unjustifiable.

But there is more progression than the bald figures show. If one takes out repeat offenders who had not received a prison sentence for their previous convictions, average sentences in this sample increase by 25 months for a second conviction, and by 5½ months for a third.

Quite apart from the manifest injustice of sentencing without regard to the circumstances of the case, the statistics relied upon are therefore insufficient and tainted. The effects of the proposals for minimum sentences would be vastly to increase the prison population, and to require a fundamental reconsideration of the comparative sentences imposed for these and other crimes upon first conviction.

The Government would do well to listen to the arguments in Parliament, and to consider whether its proposals are necessary or justified.



Monty Python politics

**The Prime Minister is a weak man
trying to look strong — what a
humiliation for a once-great power**

The Prime Minister's new policy of the "half-empty chair", as they are calling it in Brussels, is the wrong response to the wrong aspect of the wrong European issue. He has confused the big and permanent issue of Europe's constitutional future — which flows into and out of the Maastricht treaty, with some specific economic issues affecting particular interests. Beef and fish are the most important of these specifics. John Major has chosen to use his most dramatic weapon, non-co-operation in the European process, to buttress Britain's case on this particular beef issue, or on a narrow part of it. That could weaken his position on the constitutional issues, which are historically so much more important. His tactic could also fail to work.

Both in Britain and in the rest of Europe, the outcome of these experiments will create an entirely new situation. If it is proved that BSE, with its characteristic signature, is being transmitted from cow to man, then the beef ban is likely to remain in force until the British herd is effectively free of the disease.

Although the BSE epidemic is declining, there are still more than 100 further cases each week.

If, on the other hand, the "new" human cases turn out to be merely a variant of sporadic CJD, that would leave no evidence that BSE can cross the species barrier to man. Then indeed the mantra that British beef is "safe" in any normal definition of the word would be true.

Europe is not therefore going to lift the main beef ban until it is known whether or not BSE is infectious to man. Nor will Britain now import European beef, if the situations were reversed. The Prime Minister's threat of the half-empty chair is therefore an empty one. The narrow ban on by-products will probably be lifted anyway, and his threat could make that less rather than more likely. The beef ban is not going to be lifted until people know that they cannot catch CJD from eating beef. So long as there are 100 BSE cases a week, it is obvious that some pre-clinical BSE cows are still going to get into the human food supply. European consumers will not take the risk.

The Prime Minister is exposing himself to scepticism and even ridicule by deploying Britain's ultimate negotiating weapon in Europe, or at least our penultimate weapon, in order to put pressure on those three great issues of state: Tallow, Gelatin and Semen.

Some ministers have tried to explain how this strange policy will work. One of them, wisely remaining anonymous, told the *Financial Times* what terrible things the Government would do. Ministers will even go so far as to disregard the agenda of European discussions.

"If we are there to talk about transport, we will talk about beef. If fishing is on the table, we will talk about beef."

This is a foreign policy scripted by Monty Python. In any case, British fishermen, who are just as angry as the beef farmers, will be anything but pleased to hear that British ministers, instead of criticising Spanish overfishing in the Irish Sea, or some such subject of interest to them, will be arguing to the European Fisheries Committee that there are no BSE prions in tallow, or that gelatin is safe if it has been treated at a high enough temperature for a long enough time.

Some observers think that the Prime Minister's new policy is only secondarily concerned with Europe, or even with beef, and that it is primarily a response to the divisions in his own party. There the immediate reaction was favourable, but even 24 hours later it has cooled. Both among Europhiles who might be expected to be annoyed, and among Eurosceptics, who might have liked it better, I have been hearing the comment that this is the gesture of a weak man trying to look strong. The cynical view, common in both groups, is that the Prime Minister expects to win a relaxation of the ban on the beef by-products, and perhaps a few words suggesting that the main beef ban won't last forever, and that he will then declare a victory in his own favour. Hardly anyone believes that he will continue the half-empty chair policy until the beef ban has actually been lifted.

In the meantime, the serious economic decline of Europe continues, with or without Britain. The clouds of negative energy, which are so symptomatic of the decay of political systems, now blanket the European Union including the British Isles. On Tuesday, the German Economics Ministry reported that the economy had declined, after price and seasonal adjustments, for two consecutive quarters. Technically, that puts Germany in recession.

The Germans have the strongest industrial base in Europe; it is, on some measurements, the third largest economy in the world, after the United States and Japan. On other measurements, China comes second only to the United States.

Yet Germany in the 1990s is a high-cost, high-tax economy with short working hours and high and rising unemployment. Chancellor Kohl has introduced a programme of expenditure cuts, which are meeting strong trade union resistance. Nurses, hospital orderlies, dustmen, postmen and civil servants have all joined protest strikes, which the *Handelsblatt*, Germany's financial daily, rashly called "the revolt of the dwarfs".

Europe regards the German economy as the engine which will carry everyone forward; that engine has now stalled.

What is the Foreign Secretary expected to say when the European Union discusses high unemployment and the other competitive weaknesses of the European economy? Even when not in recession, the EU now grows at only a quarter the rate of the Pacific tiger economies. Malcolm Rifkind will have to talk about beef. "I say, Signor, did you know that we have only had about a quarter the number of cases of BSE in Scotland than they've had down in the West Country. Only 129 Aberdeen Angus have caught the disease so far. You're really almost safe eating Scottish beef, and I can assure you it's quite delicious." This will now be the diplomatic way of what was once a great power.

There comes a time when nothing works for ministers. They've used up the confidence of the people; they have used up the trust of their allies; they have exhausted their own energies; they have lost faith in themselves. The *Daily Mail* — "Major goes to war at last" — and the *Daily Express* — "Major speaks for Britain" — think that this spasm of hysteria after years of incompetence shows that the Government has recovered the will to govern. It is not so. The half-empty chair is the symbol of a half-dead Government.

Reader, I do not believe it
**Magnus Linklater
questions the Brontë 'discovery'**

I have somewhere a photograph of myself, grinning weakly, holding two volumes of the so-called Hitler Diaries. The picture was taken just as the sorry hoax was beginning to unravel, and this was a souvenir not to be treasured, but to be kept hidden away as an awful reminder of human fallibility and greed. From my involvement in that episode, back in 1983, I learnt, first, to be very wary of the phrase "99.9 per cent certain" — used to me by Lord Dacre as reassurance on the day before publication of the diaries in *The Sunday Times* — and secondly to distrust all experts, particularly handwriting experts, who are almost always wrong. Most of all I remember, with deep guilt, the way I and others on the paper "willied" the story to be true, just when we should have been most critical. The very fact that the outside world was so derisively sceptical led to a closing of our minds to contrary evidence.

There is, of course, no real comparison between that extraordinary saga and the "discovery" of an unknown novel by Charlotte Brontë, reported this weekend beneath banner headlines. The Hitler diaries, it true, would have altered our view of history. The new Brontë — *Sarah Miles*, a story of four Yorkshire women going through hard times during the industrial revolution — would be merely a literary treat. But what a treat. Giles Gordon, the agent who is currently negotiating its sale to eager publishers, reports that may come to be considered her finest work; it is, he says, an "unprecedented" find, "the publishing sensation of the autumn". Not for nothing is Mr Gordon considered an agent sans pareil.

And there is, so far as we know, no hoover. Just a forgotten Victorian novel and the will to believe that it is a Brontë. Naturally we want it to be true. What could be more thrilling than a novel to equal *Jane Eyre*? Already it has been described as "compulsively readable", full of memorable women and splendid passages of descriptive prose. It would fill the literary pages and inspire academic theses. Just think of the movie rights.

But in an age when the suspension of disbelief is almost endemic, we have a duty to be a little more rigorous about these things, lest we develop a collective *suffocation of the brain*. Let us remember that there are no such things as UFOs, bending spoons, Yetis, Loch Ness Monsters, corn circles formed by space machines, astrological science or London double-deckers at the South Pole. And there is no such thing as an undiscovered work by Charlotte Brontë. There, I've said it.

What happens in these cases is that the "positive" evidence is seized on and the rest is airbrushed out. As I combed through the description of how the book was found and why it might indeed be a genuine Brontë, I felt the first prickles of uncertainty. It was not so much the hyperbole — "an antiquarian's dream come true... literary timebomb... an addition to the canon of English literature" — as the apparently convincing detail. The finder, Ian King, who owns the excellent Old Grindles bookshop in Edinburgh, has fed sections of the text into his Apple Mac and has thrown up what he calls remarkable parallels with other Brontë works. Among them are the phrase "these porridges" which also appears in *Jane Eyre*, and the word "disagreeables", also used in the plural; the author addresses the reader directly, as in "Reader, I married him".

It's probably unfair to haul these examples out. I am sure Mr King has many others, more convincing. But I am beginning to think that computer comparisons may be, when it comes to literature, the modern equivalent of the handwriting expert; not only the Hitler Diaries, but the Mussolini Diaries and the fake Howard Hughes autobiography were all "authenticated" by graphologists. They were all wrong. I wonder whether the computer is any more reliable? I would like to ask Mr King, for instance, how many passages he discovered that were *nothing like* Charlotte Brontë. Even the critic Angus Calder, who contributed a cautious analysis in *Scotland on Sunday*, is dubious about the author's extensive use of "truculent" dialogue, her uncompromising feminism and rushed transitions of narrative. Do these not outweigh a smattering of "disagreeables"?

I also wonder why it was necessary for Mr King to conduct his research in secret, working night and day without consulting the Brontë experts, of whom there is no shortage? Why the rush, why the secrecy? Why is there no reference to the manuscript in any of the Brontë biographies, including Mrs Gaskell's? And can we really believe Mr King's tortuous explanation of its origins — stolen by a jealous friend from Charlotte's room after her death, hidden for 30 years, then published under the name of another author? In the case of the Hitler Diaries, the story of how they were concealed after the war was also unbelievable, though we chose to believe it.

I hope I'm wrong. If I am, I shall eat this column, newsprint and all, in Mr Gordon's elegant New Town dining-room. But I suspect it won't come to that.

The hat's off



abandoned the swashbuckling Fedora which he had thought would impart a winning image in Brussels. But as Central Office breathed a sigh of relief, the Hoggie was spotted in Whitehall behaved once more. Protection, you see, from the weather, which was yesterday as unpleasant as some of the opinions in Westminster of his shambolic negotiating skills.

THE PERFORMANCE of the embattled Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, during the BSE crisis has been a source of concern in Downing Street. Now his dress sense is under attack.

Sir Tim Bell, the public relations guru who is again advising the Government after years in the cold, is urging that Hogg abandon the ludicrous hat he has been sporting in Brussels. I understand that Bell's message about headgear has been passed to Hogg via his wife Sarah, who at one time headed the Downing Street Policy Unit.

The press office at Central Office has endorsed the sentiment, and Hogg seemed this week to have taken the hint. On Tuesday, he



Little treasure

MY WHOLEHEARTED congratulations to Elisabeth Wright, who after 33 years at the Japanese Embassy is to be rewarded for her sterling work with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays, at a ceremony at the Embassy in Piccadilly today.

Miss Wright has served II ambassadors as private secretary, visited Japan twice and hob-nobbed with the Japanese Imperial family

— all the while refusing to learn the language of her employers. "Not a word," she says cheerfully. "I made all the ambassadors practise their English on me."

His purpose is to collect candidates for the first Commons and Lords "Rears of the Year" awards, but he is remaining anonymous. We only know that he has a southern constituency. "He has already singled out Michael Portillo and I expect other nominations shortly," says organiser Anthony Edwards.

The corridor-creeper would do well to steer clear of Tony Banks. "I shall warn my colleagues not to show their bottoms in the House," says Banks. "If anyone is caught taking a picture of my bottom, he will get a sound thrashing."

Turfed in

FANS of last night's European Cup finalists Ajax can now stay in touch with their beloved soccer

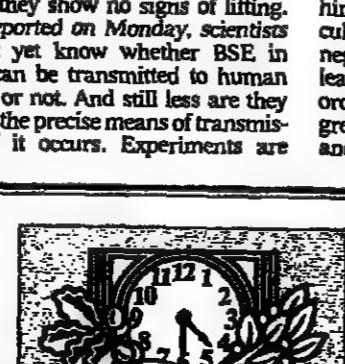
club from beyond the grave. A 40ft by 50ft patch of pitch from the Amsterdam side's former ground is being moved to a crematorium on the outskirts of the city. Supporters will be able to pay a fee, as yet undisclosed, to have their ashes scattered over the turf, and to have a small gravestone in the club's red and white erected on the grass.

Another cup

THE actress Sharon Maughan hopes she has finally found a way to keep her over-active husband, Trevor Eve, out of mischief. The

couple were at a lunch party yesterday for the draw for the Veuve Clicquot Gold Cup, where she explained that she is eagerly encouraging her husband's own polo career as a playing member at Cowdray Park. He has tried everything else involving bats and balls. "He's all but exhausted the sports list," said the doyenne of Gold Girls weary. "We've had tennis and what-have-you — now it's polo. But I think this is it. He's hooked. And now he will be out of my hair so I can work on my film script."

P.H.S.



In the footsteps of his famous grandfather, Gopal Gandhi is off to South Africa next month as the new Indian High Commissioner in Pretoria. Presumably he will enjoy his stay rather more than his forebear, who was jailed for his stand against racism.

THE PERFORMANCE of the embattled Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, during the BSE crisis has been a source of concern in Downing Street. Now his dress sense is under attack.

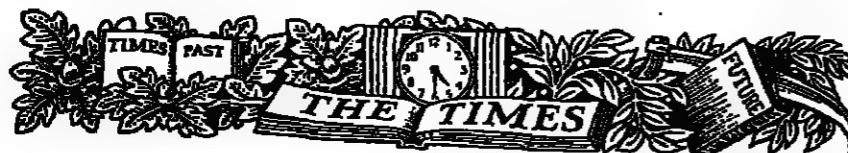
Sir Tim Bell, the public relations guru who is again advising the Government after years in the cold, is urging that Hogg abandon the ludicrous hat he has been sporting in Brussels. I understand that Bell's message about headgear has been passed to Hogg via his wife Sarah, who at one time headed the Downing Street Policy Unit.

The press office at Central Office has endorsed the sentiment, and Hogg seemed this week to have taken the hint. On Tuesday, he

abandoned the swashbuckling Fedora which he had thought would impart a winning image in Brussels. But as Central Office breathed a sigh of relief, the Hoggie was spotted in Whitehall behaved once more. Protection, you see, from the weather, which was yesterday as unpleasant as some of the opinions in Westminster of his shambolic negotiating skills.

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BULLY FOR BEEF

The election may come sooner than we thought

Boldness has never been John Major's defining virtue. But on the few occasions on which he has exercised it, his daring has paid off. The new policy of non-co-operation in Europe can be counted alongside his 1995 leadership election as a high-risk, but potentially high-reward, strategy. At one stroke, the Prime Minister has changed the political outlook for both main parties.

Until very recently, there were few Tories who thought that the general election should be held before spring of next year. The November Budget's tax cuts needed time to feed through into pay packets, it was thought, and a greater sense of prosperity needed time to be reflected in the polls. To fight this autumn and lose would give rise to endless regret and speculation about what could have been achieved had the Prime Minister held on until the end of his term.

But the balance of risks and opportunities was already changing before this new stance on Europe. As tax revenues evaporated, to the Treasury's alarm, the scope for tax cuts in the autumn had almost vanished. Better, perhaps, to hold an election before November than to have a disappointing Budget that did nothing for the Tories' electoral fortunes.

Meanwhile, the death of just one Conservative MP would deprive Mr Major of his Commons majority. The prospect of limping through the winter, dependent upon the support of the Ulster Unionists, stirs memories of the doomed Callaghan Government, which might have won an election had it held one in autumn 1978 rather than spring 1979. The only Government this century that has won an election with a workable majority within six months of the end of its term of office was Mr Major's own administration in 1992.

The most powerful argument against going to the country this autumn was that, by then, the Tories might not have closed enough of the gap in the opinion polls. This is where the beef strategy, if it works, will come into play. Already, Mr Major has achieved the rare feat of uniting both the mass of his party and the traditionally Tory newspapers behind his move. This combination may well help to boost the Conservatives in

the polls; this in turn will stiffen the resolve of Tories and demoralise the Labour Party.

Will the position itself be popular with the voters whom Mr Major needs to attract? Beef is not the ideal issue on which to take on Europe. The spread of BSE is almost entirely the fault of inadequate government measures; and more people blame the Government than Europe for the mess. Consumer boycotts (as Shell discovered with the Brent Spar) are the hardest to crack. The partial ban will no doubt be lifted, as it would have been without the new stance, but the full ban may stubbornly remain.

Mr Major will, therefore, want to enlarge the battleground, to use beef merely as a symbol for the need to change the workings of the EU. This should appeal to two tranches of disaffected Tories: right-wingers who might otherwise have abstained or supported the Referendum Party, and the so-called "Basilton" voters who would not go near a Liberal Democrat candidate.

Tony Blair, meanwhile, will be left with the floaters of the centre. He will try to resist Tory attempts to make this a single-issue general election. He will doubtless warn the country that the Tories secretly want to withdraw altogether from the EU; and — shades of 1964 — he will portray this policy as backward-looking compared with the "modern" constructive position of Labour. The new aggressiveness has thrown Labour onto the defensive. Caught between the desire to neutralise the issue by backing the Government and exploiting the territory now vacated by Mr Major, Mr Blair and his colleagues do not know which way to go.

Mr Major can capitalise upon the Opposition's disarray only if he stands firm himself. On the last occasion that a Tory Prime Minister called an election on the question "Who governs Britain?", his resolve cracked too early. Edward Heath made concessions to the miners during the course of the campaign, and Harold Wilson narrowly won. But the Tories garnered more votes than Labour and managed to claw back their deficit in the polls. The lesson for today's Prime Minister is clear: hold your nerve.

IMRAN TO DECLARE

A statesman needs policies and a team as well as popularity

To remember Imran Khan captaining his cricket team is to understand his appeal to the populace of Pakistan. But now Mr Khan is moving from fast bowling to fast talking, pitching himself onto the political platform under the banner of anti-corruption.

Last month Mr Khan launched Tehreek-i-Insaaf, his Justice Movement. This week he is in Britain to rally support among an emigrant population who, though they do not hold a vote in Pakistan, maintain strong links with relatives back home. He is inspecting the pitch before the possible transformation of his movement into a political party in a few months' time.

The reason he has drawn the crowds says as much about the sterile state of Pakistani politics as it does about Mr Khan's status as national hero. Pakistan is a state pushing towards a liberal Islamic democracy. The secular government holds sway by warding off the most threatening extremes of Islam, while maintaining a public front of respect for Islamic doctrines. The established political parties — the Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan Muslim League of Nawaz Sharif — are based on shifting coalitions of self-interested individuals, opportunist politicians whose motivating force seems to be private gain and the perpetuation of power. For a nation struggling to free itself from past military rule and establish true democracy, support for Mr Khan is a *cry de cœur* for change.

The danger for Mr Khan, however, will be

an assumption that his instant popularity amounts to an endorsement of him as a politician and a thinker. While he pinpoints the problems of Pakistan — corruption, violence, feudalism, poverty, illiteracy — his high-minded standpoint is politically simplistic, even naive. There is as yet little indication that he has formulated any coherent strategies for solutions.

Mr Khan risks being used by Islamic groups to further their political agenda. After egregeous pro-Islamist remarks he seems to have moderated his views, recognising that such groups as the Jamaat-i-Islami could prove themselves an electoral liability. On the other hand, if he veers towards a less extremist stance, he will find himself courting the same voters as Mr Bhutto. Splitting her electorate may open the way into government for the Muslim League, which cannot be Mr Khan's intention.

The real problems of Pakistan lie far beyond the bickerings of factional politics. A nation staggering under the pressures of population expansion and further debilitated by constant feuds on its northern borders needs leaders who are prepared to take serious, if unpopular, decisions. It needs statesmen who can formulate consistent policies away from the quagmire of political infighting. Mr Khan's real test will come when he matches himself against the difficulties of drawing up a detailed manifesto and gathering together a leadership team to confront his opponents in a general election.

GAZZA AND THE GREAT WALL

Over the Moon for the wonder of the world

Paul Gascoigne turned down his chance to visit the Great Wall of China yesterday. He played cards in his hotel instead, while the rest of England's football team stepped up final training on the world's most distinctive monument. When told that of all man's work on Earth, it alone could be seen from the Moon, Gascoigne replied that in that case he would wait until he got to the Moon.

Everybody has his own way of relaxing before a big match. Gascoigne, who weeps easily in public, may have mistrusted the emotion inspired by the largest construction on the planet, built at the cost of a million lives and snaking majestically through a sea of rugged mountains. Or perhaps the height of the wall, ten times that of a crossbar, might have reminded him of the distance he has been shooting over the top recently. He certainly disappointed the photographers who had been looking for an opportunity to contrast ancient with modern celebrity.

So he missed what is the most ancient wonder of the tourist trade after the pyramids. For 30 centuries people have been coming to the wall. Mongols, Manchus and Japanese crossed it in war. Kublai Khan in peace. Now tourists visit it in packages. Richard Nixon was so overwhelmed that he could only comment, "It's a great wall".

Marco Polo forgot to mention the wall in his memoirs, but then he also forgot to mention tea and the ideographic script of the Chinese. So when on his death bed he said that he had barely told half of what he saw in

China, he may have had the wall in mind. Everybody thinks less of himself for never having visited the Great Wall. James Boswell said he really believed he would go and see the wall of China, if he did not have children whom he had a duty to look after. In magisterial mode Dr Johnson replied: "Sir, by doing so, you would do what would be of importance in raising your children to eminence. There would be a lustre reflected on them from your spirit and curiosity. They would be at all times regarded as the children of a man who had gone to view the wall of China. I am serious, Sir."

Let us hope that Gascoigne recovers his curiosity and spirit in midfield for England's first match against China today. With a quarter of mankind wanting to watch it in China, and millions more in England, the television audience should set a record for an England match. The Chinese are unknown quantities in world football. But a local expert says that on the field their team exemplifies the teachings of Confucius: namely, obedience, respect, unselfishness, and the need to work together for the common good.

And, of course, they have a famous defensive wall. Not all these qualities have always been on show in Terry Venables's squad. But it would be a misfortune to have travelled to the end of the Silk Road, with everything to lose and very little to win, and then to fail to score. To miss the Great Wall as well would be carelessness worthy of Marco Polo.

UK challenge on the beef ban

From Mr David Sunderland

Sir, Seemingly the sole body that would appear to be interested in the beef debate only on public health grounds is the Commission in Brussels (reports and leading article, May 22).

Nothing has convinced me more of the supranational benefits of EU membership than the present impasse. If the real issue is one of confidence, how can anybody have faith in our ability to enforce controls when in recent weeks we and our European friends have read about thousands of HIV blood tests having to be redone, forensic science tests being unreliable and beef with proscribed parts reaching the butchers' shops even now.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SUNDERLAND,
Four Old Barns,
Habberley, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
May 22

From Mr Peter Goodford

Sir, My understanding is that BSE was first detected in this country some years ago, that the British Government acted very responsibly and set up a major research effort to study it, and that after an expenditure of some millions of pounds a few cases of human disease have been found which may be related to BSE in cattle.

So far as I am aware the rest of Europe has not made a similar research effort, and it is therefore wrong for them to conclude that BSE is an exclusively British problem. In fact they do not know the position in their own countries.

The Community should either ban all beef products until each country has carried out appropriate research or accept that the low incidence of human symptoms is not cause for serious concern. Britain should not be penalised for being the first to study the problem.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. GOODFORD,
The Old Vicarage,
Ashton under Wychwood,
Oxfordshire.

From Mr Jeffrey Green

Sir, I have no doubt that the number of Britons killed each year by German cars far exceeds the number of Germans killed annually by British cows. Surely we should be seeking the destruction of German cars and not British cows?

Yours faithfully,
JEFFREY GREEN,
88 Glenelion Road, SW16.
May 22

From Dr Douglas Justins

Sir, If Britain does leave the EU she should re-establish strong, preferential trade links with all her former colonies, many of which were spurned when Britain first wooed Europe. There would be mutual financial advantages, so Commonwealth might be a good name for the group.

Yours etc,
DOUGLAS JUSTINS,
59 Vineyard Hill Road, SW19.
May 22

From Mr Myles Glover

Sir, Does not the Prime Minister's new stance over British exports of beef to Europe conflict with his stance in opposing negotiation under duress with Sinn Fein/IRA over the future of Northern Ireland?

Yours truly,
MYLES GLOVER,
Buckhall Farm,
Berthersden, Ashford, Kent.
May 22

From Mrs Maureen Harkavy

Sir, Has "bully-beef" now taken on a new meaning?

Yours faithfully,
MAUREEN HARKAVY,
The Poplars, Grange Lane,
Alvechurch, Worcestershire.
May 22

Blow to food makers

From the Editor of
Frozen and Chilled Foods

Sir, Farmers and slaughterhouse owners are not the only ones suffering from the BSE crisis (reports, May 22).

British food manufacturers have been scoring remarkable export successes prior to this latest furore. In the six months to June 1995 exports of food and drink increased by 13 per cent, £55 million up on 1994, and a sizeable percentage of those exports represents manufactured products containing beef: pies, pastries, ready meals, sausages, burgers and more.

Britain leads Europe in the manufacture of convenience foods. Our food products are excellent, but manufacturers are naturally dependent on assurances of quality from the suppliers of their raw material. The question mark now hanging over British beef has dealt the British food industry a severe blow at precisely the time when it is beginning to be recognised as a serious force by its continental competition.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL MURRAY,
Editor,

Frozen and Chilled Foods,
Argus Business Publications,
Queensway House,
2 Queensway, Redhill, Surrey.
May 22

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Cogent reasons for opposing the enlargement of Nato

From Field Marshal Lord Carver

Sir, I support wholeheartedly the views expressed by Sir John Killick in his letter of May 16 about the enlargement of Nato, and would add a further reason for opposing it. Unless Nato changes fundamentally, new members would be encouraged to model their armed forces on the American, which are basically designed for high-intensity warfare.

Such forces would inevitably be seen as a potential threat to their neighbours, particularly if they were backed by American nuclear support. That is the very opposite of what the security of central and eastern Europe needs. Countries in that area should be encouraged, as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has been trying to do, to develop agreements and confidence-building measures with their neighbours.

The future of the North Atlantic Alliance lies not in expanding its military organisation, Nato, on its existing pattern, but in a return to the original concept, at least as seen then by the US of an alliance in which the US and Canada gave general support (with emphasis at that time on nuclear weapons) to a Western European defence organisation.

The alliance needs to address itself to far more radical reorganisation than it contemplates at present, a balanced relationship between the US and Canada on the one hand and an enlarged European Union on the other. The latter should establish a more or less integrated core defence organisation, which must at least include Britain, France and Germany, to cover arms procurement, common training and operating procedures and the capability to command in operations their own forces and those of any members of the Union/Alliance who may wish to take part.

Those who do not join permanently the integrated core would exercise national command of their forces unless participating in such an operation. If

the US is taking part it should be accepted that it will exercise overall command, as it has always done in the past and would in reality have done in any Nato operation. The forum for discussion between the Alliance (and its members) and other countries of Europe should be the OSCE, which should receive greater support and encouragement than it does now.

A European security organisation of this nature should arouse no fears in the minds of the Russians, who might then be more inclined to make progress with the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (start).

Yours truly,
CARVER,
House of Lords.
May 16

From Professor Sir Michael Howard

Sir, Like Sir John Killick, I have deep reservations about the extension of Nato to include the Visegrad Four. The fact that Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia want to join is no more a sufficient reason for admitting them than the wish of Russia that they should not be a sufficient reason for keeping them out.

As Sir John argues, their admission would do nothing to enhance the security of Nato's existing members, but would, by further complicating its decision-making process, do much to degrade it. Neither would membership enhance the security of the Visegrad Four. Their problems are social and economic rather than military and would be better addressed through membership of the European Union or of a military alliance to meet a threat that does not exist.

Does not Nato exist? But if Nato were to be extended eastward we would see the beginning of a familiar pattern of escalation. Russia, seeing herself threatened by her traditional enemies, would once again set about establishing her dominance over Ukraine, Belarus and probably the Baltic states as well.

Nato would have to respond by

improving its military ties with the Visegrad states and perhaps offering guarantees in the Baltic, which the Russians could only see as further threats to their own security. Within a few years we would be back to a military confrontation in which the security of the Visegrad states would really be threatened, and the whole merry-go-round would begin again.

Our object surely is to create a security system embracing Russia as well as the nations of western and central Europe, and the security of the latter cannot be purchased by neglecting the fears of the former. The luminaries who attended the Prague conference (reports, May 11, 13) obviously meant well, but they were dangerously short-sighted. One does not avoid the mistakes of the past by repeating them.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOWARD,
The Old Farm,
Eastbury, Hungerford, Berkshire.
May 19

From Admiral of the Fleet
Lord Hill-Norton

Sir, I hope that the wise words of Sir John Killick will give those responsible in Whitehall and Westminster reason to review what seem to be present policies about Nato "enlargement", which can lead only to disaster.

Who in the world, I wonder, really wants to get into the position that when a border punch-up occurs in eastern Hungary, or Poland, or Austria, Saseur (Supreme Allied Commander Europe) has to hurry to the rescue? And if he were crazy enough to do so, may we expect Herr Kohl to order the Bundeswehr to leap into the breach, as they so conspicuously didn't in Yugoslavia?

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
HILL-NORTON
(Chairman, Nato Military Committee, 1974-77),
House of Lords.

Alpha courses and Toronto blessing as aids to faith

From Mr Richard Carter

Sir, Mrs Helen Walker (letter, May 15) states that on her weekend Alpha course "a few fellow members were visited by the Holy Spirit". It is my earnest hope (and in faith I am prepared to believe it) that everyone on that day may have received His visitation. Some of the teaching of the Alpha course material may too easily give the false impression that the only definitive evidence of the Holy Spirit's visitation in a person is the manifestation of supernatural signs, particularly the gift of tongues.

Some Christians today, in common with some of our Lord's hearers during His ministry, are so concerned with instant evidence that they neglect to wait to see the fruit of the Spirit, which in New Testament teaching is the only sure sign that a person is truly born again by the Spirit's visitation.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. F. CARTER,
32 The Poles,
Upchurch, Sittingbourne, Kent.
May 15

From the Reverend Jonathan Kerr

Sir, Your report (May 18) on the Methodist Church's response to the Toronto blessing, and in particular its headline, "Methodists fear Toronto blessing may be a curse", do less than

justice to the balance of views contained in our working party's report. The word "curse" does not appear in our report; indeed, although we do express cautions and recognise that there have been abuses and some cases of distress, on balance the view is much more favourable.

The clear majority of our almost 300 respondents who have had direct experience of this phenomenon speak in positive terms. Undoubtedly many people have been led to a greater awareness of God. Although some of the manifestations (falling to the ground, laughing and weeping, animal-like noises) may strike an observer as bizarre, they have often led on to lives of



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 22: The Queen this morning arrived at Bristol Elton Airfield and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Eaves).

Her Majesty, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, drove to Beachley Barracks, Chepstow, and was received by the Colonel (Major General) Morgan Lewellyn.

The 1st Battalion, on parade, received The Queen with a Royal Salute, after which Her Majesty inspected the parade and presented a new Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour.

After the presentation, The Queen was graciously pleased to address the parade, and the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Riley) replied.

Her Majesty later met past and present members of the Regiment and their families, and honoured the Colonel with her presence at Luncheon.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, today attended Receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, this afternoon gave a Luncheon and chaired a meeting of the Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 22: The Princess Royal, Patron, Centrepoint, this morning received Mr Victor Adebowale (Chief Executive).

WORK HOUSE

May 22: The Duchess of Kent this morning opened the new Residential House at St Peters School, St Peters Lane, Lingfield, Surrey, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey (Mr Richard Thornton).

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

May 22: Princess Alexandra today visited Rochdale and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmons).

Her Royal Highness visited the Floyd Hall of the Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale, and her visit to Spalding School, Edensor Street, Adelphi, York, subsequently opened the Pendleton Croft retirement housing scheme at Hind Hill Street, Heywood, Rochdale.

Royal engagements

and, as Grand Prior of the Order of St John, will attend a training demonstration at Snetterton Race Circuit, Norfolk, at 2.45.

The Duchess of Gloucester will visit RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire, at 11.00.

Flight-Lieutenant Peter Phillips

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Flight-Lieutenant Peter Phillips, former display and test pilot, will be held at St Michael's Cornhill, EC3, on Thursday, June 20, at noon.

Twyford School

The Governors of Twyford School, Winchester, have appointed Mr Philip Pawkes, at present Headmaster of Latymer Preparatory School, Angus, to succeed Mr Richard Gould who is retiring. The appointment will take effect from January 1997.

Today's birthdays

KARPOR - chess player, 45; Sir Peter Kenilworth, former Prime Minister, Midland Bank, 84; Mr Rubens Barrichello, racing driver, 24; Mrs J.J. d'A. Campbell, Mistress, Girton College Cambridge, 61; Sir Matthew Campbell, civil architect, 91; Sir Hugh Casson, CH, architect, 81; Miss Joan Collins, actress, 63; Mr Denis Connolly, cricketer, 76; Sir Samuel Coward, former Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University, 84; Mr Nigel Davenport, actor, 66; the Very Rev J.H. Drury, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, 60; Dr Walter Ellis, economist, 63; Mr G.M. Gill, former chief cashier, Bank of England, 62; Mr Marius Gorin, actor, 84; Lord Granville, QC, 75; Sir John Taitman, former Secretary, Lord Chamberlain's office, 70.

KARPOR, chess player, 45; Sir Peter Kenilworth, former Prime Minister, Midland Bank, 84; Mr Rubens Barrichello, racing driver, 24; Mrs J.J. d'A. Campbell, Mistress, Girton College Cambridge, 61; Sir Matthew Campbell, civil architect, 91; Sir Hugh Casson, CH, architect, 81; Miss Joan Collins, actress, 63; Mr Denis Connolly, cricketer, 76; Sir Samuel Coward, former Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University, 84; Mr Nigel Davenport, actor, 66; the Very Rev J.H. Drury, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, 60; Dr Walter Ellis, economist, 63; Mr G.M. Gill, former chief cashier, Bank of England, 62; Mr Marius Gorin, actor, 84; Lord Granville, QC, 75; Sir John Taitman, former Secretary, Lord Chamberlain's office, 70.

Reunion

The 'Ox and Cow'

The Oxford and County Business (Secretarial) College will be holding a Diamond Jubilee Reunion in Oxford, on Saturday, October 19, 1996. We should be delighted to hear from ex-students and teachers who would like to attend and/or who would like to join our alumni network. Please contact Rosemary Waterhouse on 01865 310100.

Duke of Kent

The Duke of Kent has been pleased to accept reappointment as a Trustee of the Science Museum.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

BIRTHS

JONES-WILLIAMS

- On Tuesday, May 14, 1996, to David and Alison, their second child, a son, Daniel, born 1.05pm, 7lb 9oz.

POLHARSH

- On May 17th, at The Portland Hospital, 10 Ranelagh Gardens, London, W2, a daughter, Sophie, to Richard and Sophie Polhars, a brother to William and Jessie.

SOLAN

- On May 18th, at St Paul's Hospital, 10 Victoria Gate (Little), London, SW1, a quadruplet, beautiful son, a daughter, a son, a daughter, and a daughter, to Richard and Sophie Solan.

MARSH

- On May 18th, at The Portland Hospital, to Linda and Mark Marshall, a son, Lewis, a brother and accomplice for Oliver, Jessica and Sophie.

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CARLESS

- Beatrice Dotti (née Hutton-Harrop), on May 19th 1996 peacefully at home, beloved wife of the late Col. William Carless and much loved mother of Beatrice. Funeral Service at St George's Church, London, on Wednesday June 4th at 12.15 pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers or tributes please. Donations if desired to CAPOD or Cancer Research UK's Cancer & Genetics Unit, 10A High Street, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8HT.

DEATHS

THOMASON

- On May 19th, 1996, in Virginia and Shen, a daughter, of

TEILHARD

- Karen and Maurice are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Alan, born 12.05am, May 1996.

WYATT

- On May 20th, to Esther and Billie, a son, David, and Richard, a son, William and Jessie.

DRATHS

- On May 21st, at The Portland Hospital, to Linda and Mark Marshall, a son, Lewis, a brother and accomplice for Oliver, Jessica and Sophie.

HORN

- On May 21st, at The Portland Hospital, to Linda and Mark Marshall, a son, Lewis, a brother and accomplice for Oliver, Jessica and Sophie.

COCHRAE

- Muriel Irene, peacefully at home aged 96 years, widow of Captain J.P. Cochrae, a former member of the Royal Navy, and the late Alan and Steven, her sons. She is survived by her husband, Alan, and three grandsons, by whom she will be sadly missed. Services at St Peter's Church, Bow, on Tuesday, May 28th at 11.00 am. Interment at Bow Cemetery at 12.30 pm. Funeral service at 2.30 pm. Tributes to the Royal British Legion may be sent to the Funeral Directors, 107a Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0EE. Funeral Directors, 26 Southgate Road, Chiswick, GL2 0HY.

GRIFFIN

- Muriel, died peacefully at home, beloved wife of the late Col. William Carless and much loved mother of Beatrice. Funeral Service at St George's Church, London, on Wednesday June 4th at 12.15 pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers or tributes please. Donations if desired to CAPOD or Cancer Research UK's Cancer & Genetics Unit, 10A High Street, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8HT.

HUNT

- On 19th May 1996, suddenly in hospital, Dr John Hunt, aged 67 years of Garrowby, Deven and son, Peter and his spouse, and grand-daughter, Elizabeth, died. He was survived by all his family and friends. Funeral service will be held at 1.30pm on Friday 24th May at St Edward's Catholic Church, Garrowby, Lincolnshire. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to CAPOD or Cancer Research UK's Cancer & Genetics Unit, 10A High Street, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8HT.

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WATSON-JONES

- David on May 18th, 1996, died peacefully at home after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Services at St Saviour's Church, London, on Wednesday June 12th at 1.30pm.

PARTH

- Victor John

- On May 18th, 1996, at Bishop Auckland Hospital, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, a son, John, and loving grandfather of Kerry Phillips, Clares, Sarah and Carl, died after a long illness. Services at St George's Church, Bishop Auckland, on Wednesday June 12th at 1.30pm.

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PARTH

OBITUARIES

JOHNNY 'GUITAR' WATSON

John Watson, blues singer and guitarist, died in Yokohama, Japan on May 17, aged 61. He was born on February 3, 1935.

AS A performer, Johnny "Guitar" Watson was certainly a survivor. He played rhythm and blues in the Fifties, soul in the Sixties and re-invented himself as a funk and disco star in the late Seventies and early Eighties. Indeed, his death came as six of his albums from that period, including *A Real Mother For Ya* which famously showed Watson being pushed across Hyde Park in a "Cadillac" baby carriage by his own mother, had just been re-issued to fresh critical and public acclaim.

Born in Houston, Texas, John Watson grew up watching artists like Lightnin' Hopkins, T-Bone Walker and his favourite, the extrovert performer, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown. His father encouraged him to play the piano while he was given his first guitar, by his grandfather, who was a preacher. "He was playing spiritual songs on the guitar when I got it. My grandmother told me not to play any blues on it, and that's the first thing I taught myself to play," he said.

When his parents split up, Watson moved with his father to Los Angeles where he began to enter talent contests and was spotted by saxophone player Chuck Higgins who was looking for a pianist for his band the Mellotones. "Watson had just arrived on the West Coast and was only 13 when he joined my band," Higgins later recalled. "I had strict instructions from his father to look after him, not to let him drink, smoke or go with girls."

But it did not take long for his precocious talent to be noticed. He played keyboards on Higgins's big 1952 instrumental hit *Pachuka Hop* — an anthem in praise of a Chicago gang that held sway in southern California — and sang on the Upstate *Motorhead Baby*.

After a year with Higgins, Watson switched to the guitar and formed his own band. It was while playing the bars and clubs of Los Angeles that he developed a spectacular and flamboyant stage presence. "I was doing things



like Hendrix 15 years before — playing guitar with my teeth, hanging from the rafters," Watson said. He would work with fellow guitarist Guitar Slim. "We used to work together in the clubs with 20-ft guitar leads. We'd sit on each other's shoulders and walk out into the audience."

His first big break came when he was signed by Federal Records in 1953

his greatest number from this period was the slow and moving *Three Hours Past Midnight* where, with a vocal that sounds uncannily like a young Mick Jagger, and some superb guitar playing, he showed what a great blues player he could be.

Watson then kept up an active live performance schedule while label hopping from Keen, Class, Arvee and Escort and cutting tracks like "Gangster of Love" which would provide Steve Miller with a huge hit afterwards.

In 1961 he teamed up with the R&B star Johnny Otis who took him back to the King Records subsidiary, Federal Records, where he scaled the charts once again with *Cuttin' In*. In the mid-Sixties he toured the United Kingdom with former rock and roller Larry Williams and recorded with him for the Okeh label for which they cut a soulful vocal version of the Cannonball Adderley jazz number *Merry, Merry, Merry*, although it was the fast and frantic flipside *A Quitter Never Wins* that proved a winner in Britain's soul clubs.

The 1970s saw him adopt a more relaxed style with him like *I Don't Want To Be A Lone Ranger* before he signed a deal with English label DJM and enjoyed a hugely successful run of funk albums including *Ain't That A Bitch* and *What The Hell Is This?* These showed that he had lost none of his vocal or instrumental abilities even if they were married to a disco beat.

In 1981 he joined A&M but failed to recapture the sound or the success of his DJM albums. Later came the disappointing *Strike On Computers* and his most recent album *Bow Wow in 1993*. A London concert at the Town and Country Club in 1987 disappointed many since he concentrated on his hits of the 1970s and 1980s rather than his earlier blues material. But, as he told one journalist afterwards, "you got to be where it's at these days, man".

Watson always made sure he was where it's at. His influence can be heard on artists ranging from Jimi Hendrix to Frank Zappa. There are few left able to match his experience or his talent.

JAMES ASHLEY

James Ashley, first executive director and chief engineer of Atomic Power Constructors, died on April 27 aged 79. He was born on February 1, 1917.

JAMES ASHLEY was a leader in the development of nuclear power, both civil and military, in this country. Working first with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and then taking an influential role on the private side of the nuclear industry, he could claim to have been one of the original founding fathers behind the release of an entirely new form of energy in Britain.

Born in South Wales, James Wilfred Ashley was the son of a Welsh heavy engineer. He attended the Newport Boys' High School and from there went to London University, where he studied for a BSc Eng.

His first job was with Electro Meters, a firm specialising in industrial instruments and automatic control systems. This technical background led to his being classified as being in a "reserved occupation" under the National Service Acts and his wartime years were spent working (at least indirectly) for the Government.



From left: Sir Christopher Hinton, the Queen, Prince Philip and James Ashley at the opening of Trawsfynydd nuclear power station in 1963.

As a moderator of nuclear reactors, he spearheaded the development of the high temperature gas-cooled reactor, notably the Dragon reactor in England. He also acted as a consultant in the United States with the general atomic division of General Dynamics, working on the Peach Bottom nuclear generating station and later the Fort St Vrain high temperature graphite moderated generating station. He also held a consultancy with Gulf Oil. These consultancies took Ashley to projects in Japan, Korea, Spain and Switzerland.

In 1939 Ashley married Jean Thompson of Cardiff. Living principally in Surrey, they had two sons but this marriage was dissolved in 1971.

In 1973 Ashley married Shirley Jeafferson and moved to live in Wolverhampton. By now semi-retired, he continued his consultancy work focusing, as always, upon his strengths — design, research and development, technical management and operation. Although "retired", his schedule became, if anything, more demanding.

He managed to balance his personal interests with his "commercial" engagements. He loved hiking in Wales and Cumbria, classical music and gardening. He was an avid rugby fan and in his youth had played for the Welsh Schools.

He had a lifelong love of the visual arts. He created hammered copper pieces as well as jewellery and was a prolific amateur poet.

His second wife died in 1995 and he is survived by his two sons and a stepson.

technical director, chief engineer and project manager.

He held a wide range of technical patents, including

patents for the use of graphite

as a moderator of nuclear reactors. He spearheaded the development of the high temperature gas-cooled reactor, notably the Dragon reactor in England. He also acted as a consultant in the United States with the general atomic division of General Dynamics, working on the Peach Bottom nuclear generating station and later the Fort St Vrain high temperature graphite moderated generating station. He also held a consultancy with Gulf Oil. These consultancies took Ashley to projects in Japan, Korea, Spain and Switzerland.

In a step away from the nuclear industry, Ashley advised the Hedjaz Railway Company on the problems of rebuilding the Hedjaz Railway in the Middle East. This project involved three Arab governments, five international banks, two consulting engineers and two UK contracting companies.

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THE SACRED MUSHROOM AND THE CROSS

BY JOHN M. ALLEGRO
(*Hodder & Stoughton, £35*)

The story of Jesus is resonant with so many meanings, with such beauty and irony, and simplicity, yearning and disillusion that it vibrates in the mind like a cry heard in the dark and endless forests of a dream. Few of us brought up within the walls of Christendom's ecclesiasticism can completely disentangle our own roots from its past. Its promise, some faint and fragmentary glimpse of the tortured Christ figure remains embedded in our coherent language or (worse) our incoherent desires like an ache deep in the ligaments of memory, an old brain subtly dislocating the very muscles of intellect.

But those who cling to their belief when the fears and fancies of childhood had receded into a soft smile, who submitted joyously to the Christian faith in the full, complex maturity of their minds and emotions, must surely find it even more difficult to extricate themselves.

John Allegro was once a Methodist parson, spooning out the grey salvation of his church to strolling villagers. He was until recently a theological lecturer, and a philologist skilled at excavating obscure languages which were however preserved in many manuscripts like fossils in buckling rock. A scholarly, perceptive, quirky-talented man who somewhere along the way —

URSULA CHURCHILL-DAWES

Ursula Churchill-Dawes, kindergarten teacher and cryptographer, died on April 26 aged 86. She was born on August 17, 1909.

FOR much of her long life, Ursula Churchill-Dawes was the wife of the England cricketer and *Sunday Times* cricket correspondent, Ian Peebles. But she was married three times in all, and had an adventurous life in her own right before the war as a teacher in the Far East. An admiring expatriate described her, when she was young, as the most beautiful woman in Hong Kong.

Her independent nature grew from necessity as a child. She was orphaned at the age of ten, her young mother dying from tuberculosis, and her father, Lieutenant-Colonel George Tulloh, being shot as he led his men out of the trenches at Ypres. Ursula Nora Anstis Tulloh was brought up by an uncle in Scotland, together with her brother Tony. (Her son, Bruce Tulloh, was the famous barefoot long-distance runner.)

Ursula had no intention of following the traditional route mapped out for girls of her background into immediate matrimony and motherhood. Instead she trained as a kindergarten teacher before sailing for the Far East. She worked in schools in Hong Kong and Singapore during the 1930s, and travelled all over India, China, Burma and Ceylon. She pony-trecked in the Himalayas and flew down the coast of China in a sea plane. Wherever she visited, she would explore the countryside by walking for miles.

Her striking appearance combined with her spirited manner brought her many admirers. But her first marriage to an academic, Charles Boxer, was not a success and ended in divorce within the space of a year.

Many of her friends spent the war years as prisoners of the Japanese. Ursula escaped this fate, and began the long journey back to Britain with the aim of repatriation. She got as far as Ceylon before realising that she really had



Ursula with her second husband, Ian Peebles

sula's life, even though she did not necessarily take the closest interest in the game itself. Her husband complained that, whenever he looked up from the pitch to smile at her, all he could ever see was the back of her head, as she chattered to other wives. Mollie Wyatt, the wife of Bob Wyatt, was a great friend of hers, and she also entertained Jim Swanton, Brian Johnston, Richie Benaud and Jack Fingleton.

Her husband's death in 1980 devastated Ursula. She found comfort first in the distraction of grandchildren, later in voluntary work and in new relationships. She married Montague Churchill-Dawes, a retired prep school headmaster in 1984. After he died in 1991, her final companion was Stanley Broughton, the former chief executive of Electrolux.

Her last home was in Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire, close to the golf course at Ashridge. She remained in excellent health and when asked her age would routinely deduct ten or twenty years from the true figure. It was a tribute to her youthful manner that many people believed her.

She leaves her son and daughter from her marriage to Ian Peebles.

ROBERT HALL

Robert Hall, mountaineer, died in a blizzard on Mount Everest on May 12 aged 35. He was born in Christchurch, New Zealand, on January 14, 1961.

too died, it was assumed, at some time on May 12.

Robert Edwin Hall was brought up in Christchurch, in easy reach of the mountainous terrain of New Zealand's South Island. In 1979, at the age of 18, he first distinguished himself as a climber when he made a demanding winter ascent of Mount Cook. The next year he became the youngest New Zealander to attempt the ascent of a major Himalayan peak, reaching the snowy crown of Ama Dablam.



which towers at 6,812m. But it was in 1981 that he affirmed a lofty reputation among New Zealand's climbers when he topped both his previous achievements with the first ever winter ascent of Mount Cook in just eight-and-a-half hours.

The fastest summer ascent of this mountain face had at that time been a full 20 hours.

In 1990, along with Gary Ball and Son Peter, Hall conquered the "seven summits" — the

highest points on each of the world's land masses — in the remarkably short time of seven months. He also spent time as a survival instructor at the Scott Base in Antarctica and made the first descent by paraglider from Mount Cook.

To fund his mountain climbing, Hall set up a firm called Adventure Consultants. Although many questioned the judiciousness of allowing inexperienced mountaineers to buy a place on expeditions to treacherous pinnacles, Hall — with his meticulous attention to detail — was as safe and prudent a guide as could be wished.

He operated, however, in an area where no amount of technology, experience or organisation can ever guarantee survival and in 1993 his closest friend and the co-director of Adventure Consultants died of pulmonary oedema while the two were climbing together on Dhaulagiri.

Hall was vice-president of the New Zealand Alpine Club, New Zealand Mountaineer of the Year in 1987 and a recipient of the Himalayan Rescue Association Award in 1989. In 1990 he was awarded the New Zealand Medal.

He is survived by his wife Jan Arnold whom he met when she was studying high altitude medicine at Pheriche in Nepal. She accompanied him on several of his ascents, including those of Everest, Cho Oyu, Mount Vinson in Antarctica and Carstenz Pyramids in Papua New Guinea.

She was seven months pregnant when she accompanied him to base camp on what was to turn out to be her husband's last climb.

ON THIS DAY

May 23, 1970

John Allegro, never one to be afraid to speak his mind on matters of Biblical history, put the cat among the pigeons with his latest book which sparked off a crackling review from Dennis Potter.

The phallic shape of this weird fungus contained a drug which, logically, was the purest possible form of God's own spermatozoa. The red-capped *Amanita Muscaria* was God made manifest on earth.

A mushroom containing a powerful hallucinogen with which the ancients blew their minds and walked with God.

Allegro boldly sketches in the origins of the primordial fertility cult with an arching phallus into the caustic acids of antiseptics, whose mysterious and mycological mingle in a poetic, hallucinatory haze of credible speculation. It is a dazzling foray into the obscure hinterlands of comparative philology.

But this, of course, is no mere linguistic frolic: the full thrust of this thesis is directed head on against the figure of Christ.

Allegro ingeniously extrapolates the mushroom cult far forward in time to demonstrate categorically that Judaism and Christianity are but more sophisticated versions of a similar mystic cult, shaped out of the older mythology. The author is led with ever diminishing credibility to the proposition that "behind the story of Jesus and his companions there lies a secret layer of meaning which was never intended to be read or understood by the average reader."

If this is true, the story of Jesus is a hoax. And the style, the temper, the sophistry and artifice of this work irresistibly suggest that this is not so much the conclusion as the starting point of the Word game ...

Dennis Potter

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE

ADVERTISING

RENTALS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

USE WILL POWER TO CHEAT DEATH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SELF-CATERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS

'Production line justice' attacked

■ The Lord Chief Justice today delivers a savage parting shot to the Home Secretary, accusing him of bringing in production line justice on the basis of tainted statistics.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth, who is retiring from ill health, challenges Michael Howard over accusations that judges impose soft sentences and warn him that minimum jail terms would vastly increase the prison population. Page 1

Father tells of Jaymee's fight

■ The father of Jaymee Bowen, the 11-year-old girl finally beaten by leukaemia, spoke of her last days and pledged to continue his legal fight over her treatment saying: "She will win in the end." David Bowen said his daughter, who came to prominence as "Child B" in a legal battle with Cambridge health authority, had shown awesome courage. Pages 1, 9

Beef "war cabinet"

John Major and Malcolm Rifkind have created a "war cabinet" to demonstrate the seriousness of the threat to paralyse the European Union over the beef crisis. Pages 1, 12, 13

Cyston jailed for rape

The flamboyant millionaire businessman Owen Cyston was jailed for six years for the "horrendous" rape of a 16-year-old former model. Page 1

Piltdown clue

Initials on an old canvas trunk found under the roof of the Natural History Museum may finally have solved the riddle of Piltdown Man, the century's most notorious scientific fraud. Page 1

Divorce Bill battle

The Government made a last-ditch attempt to rescue its beleaguered divorce reform Bill, with Labour renewing its threat to vote it down. Page 2

Law Society attack

Fresh turmoil erupted at the Law Society when one of its best-known past presidents, Rodger Pannone, attacked its leaders as unfit to govern. Page 4

Civic ties stundered

Apathy is being blamed as the fishing communities of Lowestoft and Katwijk in The Netherlands end 34 years as twin towns. The citizens of Katwijk see little point in the civic ties. Page 6

Art lovers throng to view Degas

■ The Degas exhibition which opened at the National Gallery in London has sold more advance tickets than any previous show at the gallery. As art lovers ignored the rain in a queue for tickets, exhibition curators were already hailing the show as a popular and critical success. More than 3,500 advance tickets have been sold. Page 5



A painting by Damien Hirst containing 56 coloured dots sells for £32,200 at Christie's in London yesterday. Report, page 5

Candidate rejected

The Labour Party's ruling body has deselected John Lloyd, the parliamentary candidate for Exeter, over his past links with terrorism in South Africa. Page 10

Duelling guitars

Eric Clapton or Jimi Hendrix? Chuck Berry or Pete Townshend? Just who is the greatest rock guitarist? A magazine survey seeks to end the debate. Page 11

Rock roadblock

Spain has responded to the conciliatory new Government in Gibraltar by imposing greater obstacles to travellers wishing to cross its border with the British colony. Page 14

Swiss bomb plan

Switzerland, famed for its armed neutrality, considered building a nuclear bomb, according to a Swiss historian. Page 15

Clinton forces issue

Republicans accused President Clinton of trying to delay a sexual harassment lawsuit by suggesting that as commander-in-chief of the US Armed Forces he could have the same rights as a soldier on active duty. Page 16

Polling errors

Israel's election was thrown wide open with the publication of a Labour Party document alleging that opinion polls were over-estimating support for the Prime Minister, Shimon Peres. Page 17

ECONOMY: The Bank of England has warned mortgage lenders that they could be creating trouble for themselves by offering big discounts. Page 25

HOTELS: Granada, the media and leisure group that won Forte in a £3.9 billion takeover battle in January, surprised the City by announcing that it would sell Forte's Exclusive chain of hotels... Page 25

PHONE NUMBERS: Nyxer CableComms became the first cable company to introduce phone-number portability. Page 25

MARITIME: The FT-SE 100 fell 25.2 points to close at 3,764.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.8 to 84.6 after a fall from 81.525 to 81.503 and from DM2.3327 to DM2.3237. Page 28

RACING: Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of one of 34 entries left in the Derby. Stereo Dancer, who is believed to be in Serbia. Page 43

SPORT

CRICKET:

The Texaco Trophy one-day international series between England and India begins at the Oval overshadowed by the ill-timed serialisation of a book by the chairman of selectors, Ray Illingworth. Page 48

FOOTBALL: Gary and Philip Neville become the second set of brothers this century to represent England in the same match when they play against China. Page 48

ATHLETICS: The British federation was accused of "spineless" behaviour towards Diane Modahl after her omission from the reserve squad for the European Cup. Page 42

RACING: Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of one of 34 entries left in the Derby. Stereo Dancer, who is believed to be in Serbia. Page 43

ARTS

FILMS OF THE WEEK:

Fresh from winning the top prize at Cannes, Mike Leigh's tender *Secret & Lies* hits Britain; while the only fear expressed in the Richard Gere thriller *Primal Fear* is the fear of being original. Page 35

FAMOUS COLLECTOR: A National Gallery show, running in conjunction with the big Degas exhibition, offers a fascinating insight into the artist as collector of other people's work. Page 35

NEW VIDEOS: Some fine performances and plenty of period detail enliven *The Madness of King George*. Page 36

GALLERY GROWTH: Thanks to a £3 million lottery handout, expansion at the Serpentine Gallery in London is under way. Page 37

FEATURES

JOE JOSEPH: Virginia Bottomley has a mystical talent for selecting photo-opportunities that, somehow, manage to make her look just completely barking. Page 19

CATALAN TORN: Elegant Barcelona is in the grip of an ill-tempered revolt after the city's football club sacked its acclaimed Dutch coach, Tuncu Varadarajan. Page 20

BODY AND MIND: Some fine performances and plenty of period detail enliven *The Madness of King George*. Page 18

TRAVEL: Tropical adventures: The changing nature of exotic honeymoons. Plus flight, ferry, holiday and hotel bargains. Page 40

BOOKS

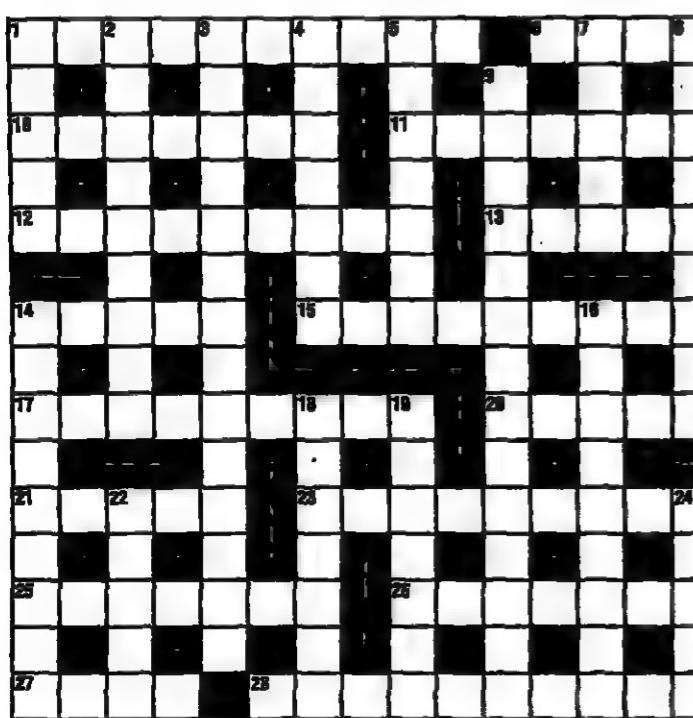
GOOD READS: Why does Sappho seem a lone voice? Peter Stothard on women poets in the ancient world; Peter Ackroyd on Thomas Cranmer. Pages 38, 39

THE PAPERS

Those who have benefited most from the United Nations embargo against Iraq have been, primarily, Saudi Arabia, which has seen its own oil production rise, and, indirectly, America, which has converted its ally into a major commercial client — *El País*. Page 23

OPPOSITION TO ENLARGED NATO: Toronto blessing. Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,175



For the latest regional weather forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London... 701 Kent/Surrey/Sussex... 702 Devon & Cornwall... 704 Wiltshire/Avon/Somerset... 705 Berkshire/Oxon/Bucks... 706 East Anglia/Norfolk/Suffolk/Cambs... 708 West Mid & Sth Gtrn & Gwent... 709 Shropshire/Wrcestershire/Worcester... 710 Lancs & Humberside... 712 Dyfed & Powys... 714 Gwynedd & Cymru... 715 N/W England... 716 W & S York & Dales... 717 N E England... 718 Cumbria & Lake District... 719 W Central Scotland... 721 Edin S Fife/Lotnan & Borders... 722 C Central Scotland... 723 Galloway & Kyle... 724 N/E Scotland... 725 Caithness, Orkney & Shetland... 726 N Ireland... 727 Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic information, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 401 followed by the appropriate code:

Nation & SE traffic, roadworks... 728 National traffic and roadworks... 729 National movement... 730 West Country... 731 Midlands... 732 East Anglia... 734 North-West England... 735 North-East England... 736 Scotland... 737 Northern Ireland... 745 AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Yesterday's highest day temp: Hailsham, Co Down, 17°C (62°F); lowest night: Liverpool, 10°C (50°F); highest March temp: Bath, 17°C (63°F); highest sunshine: Aberdeen, 8.4hr.

17 Coupling ill-feeling in opponent of union presentation (9).

20 Bitter's free, going by the bill (5).

21 Have one's eye on bloke Times leader's on (5).

23 Suitable for listener, opening broadcast (9).

25 In the wind, it goes higher than the rest (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 28,174

ACROSS

1 Trouble in orchards, unusually brief and inconsequential (4-6).

6 Blow this hairstyle! (4).

10 Abandoned cricket side on pitch (4-3).

11 Improper distribution to players at start (7).

12 Oriental poet's always comprehending a grave (9).

13 The French haul and farewell (5).

14 Waylay in a section of flight (5).

15 He avoids the bishop in a Barset novel (9).

17 Coupling ill-feeling in opponent of union presentation (9).

20 Bitter's free, going by the bill (5).

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Times Two Crossword, page 45

HOIST REINSTATE
A O C A N H R G S
NEWSPRINT ACTOR
D E K S E V I E
SHRINKINGVIOLET
D O N R A L
ORNATE PAINTERS
W U M R B U
NARCOTIC PLAYER
S P S T U P
THE COAST IS CLEAR
R M S P E R I
AMASS EMBARRASS
M J U N E N S E
PIEDOMETER EMINED

RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up
34% of the newsprint used
by UK newspapers in 1995

Times Two Crossword, page 45

FORECAST

■ General: sunshine and showers. Much of England and Wales although dry at first will have a cloudy day with outbreaks of rain spreading eastwards. Northern England should become brighter at times between showers. Late in the day drier, brighter but showery weather may reach Wales. It will be rather windy in the south at times.

Over Scotland and Northern Ireland early cloud and patchy drizzle will soon give way to sunny intervals and scattered showers. The showers will be heaviest in the north west. Temperatures will generally be near the May average.

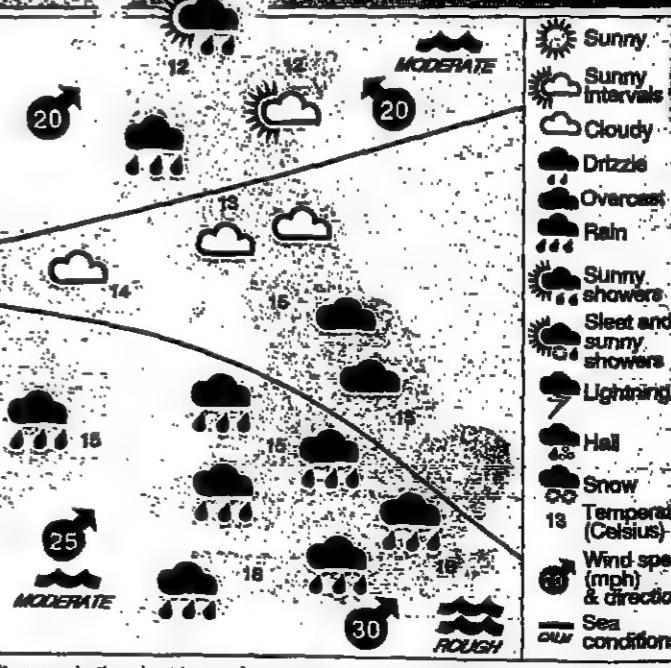
■ NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: sunny spells and a few scattered showers. Wind southwest, moderate or fresh. Max 15C (59F).

■ NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Cheshire Isles, SW England, S Wales, Central N England: after a cloudy start outbreaks of rain will spread from the west. Wind southwest, moderate becoming fresh. Max 15C (59F).

■ Shetland: cloudy with rain. Max 11C (52F).

■ Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: showers or longer spells of rain, but becoming drier later on Saturday.

Changes to the chart below from noon: low W will remain near northern Scotland and closely ill; low T will run steadily northeast towards Denmark with central pressure unchanged; high F will slowly decline in situ.



ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Consequences of the 'war' against Europe

BOOKS 38, 39

Thomas Cranmer: a reformer misunderstood?

SPORT 42-48

Neville brothers join forces in England's cause

THE TIMES



BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MAY 23 1996

Granada surprises City with its hotel reservations

By ERIC REGULY

GRANADA, the media and leisure group that won Forte in a £3.9 billion hostile takeover battle in January, surprised the City yesterday with the announcement that it would sell Forte's Exclusive chain of trophy hotels but keep the larger Meridien chain. Granada had originally intended to sell both hotel groups to cut its high debt.

The move appears to deliver a blow to Sir Rocco Forte, the former

Forte group chairman and chief executive, who had been preparing to bid for the Exclusive, and Meridien together. He said: "I am not interested in Exclusive on its own. I am only interested in the complete package."

Analysts noted, however, that Granada has a fiduciary duty to consider a bid for both chains if one were made. Sir Rocco would not comment on any plans he has to launch an unsolicited bid for the groups as a whole, though he and Gerry Robin-

son, Granada's chief executive, are said to be on friendly terms. With the help of his advisers, including J P Morgan, the New York bank, Sir Rocco has loans in place that would make his bid credible.

During the takeover battle, Forte valued the Exclusive and Meridien chains together at about £1.6 billion, with the Exclusive hotels worth somewhat more than half of that amount. The hotels in the Exclusive portfolio include Brown's and the Hyde Park in London, the Plaza

Athènes in New York and Paris, the Eden in Rome and the Sandy Lane in Barbados.

The 85 Meridien hotels are a notch below the Exclusives, but are still considered five-star. They are scattered worldwide and generally trade under the Meridien name.

Granada said it decided to keep the Meridien chain after a review of the Forte hotels because it had more profit potential. Mr Robinson said the review "identified the potential for substantial improvement and development using our own management control and focus".

Granada is expected to put new management teams into the Meridien and run its hotels as a group instead of individual properties.

Lazard Brothers, Granada's financial adviser, will publish the Exclusive's sales document within two weeks. It has received dozens of inquiries from potential buyers, including the Barclay brothers, who own the Ritz and Howard hotels in London. Other possible purchasers

BUSINESS TODAY

	FTSE 100	FTSE All share	FTSE A All shares	FTSE Composite
Yield	3.77%	3.77%	(-10.86)	(-10.86)
Nikkei	1852.50	2195.00	1833.74	1833.74
New York				
Dow Jones	5729.50	5729.50	(-7.78)*	(-0.05)*
S&P Composite	5727.71			

Federal Funds... 5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond... 8.85%* (8.85%)
Yield... 8.85%* (8.85%)

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Warning by Bank on loan discounts

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England has issued a severe warning to mortgage lenders, saying that banks and building societies could be creating trouble for themselves by offering heavy discounts and cash-back offers.

The Bank believes that lenders have been lulled into a false sense of security by the current low interest-rate environment, and the savings market, which is distorted by billions of pounds tied up in savings accounts waiting for building societies to convert to bank status.

The Bank report said it was "important that lenders continue to assess carefully the terms on which they write business. Caution also needs to be exercised in the methods of accounting which are adopted for any schemes used to induce business."

Its concern about accounting centres on the reluctance of some lenders, most recently Cheltenham & Gloucester, to disclose how profits would have been affected if the cost of cash-backs and discounts had been written off immediately.

Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS, said most building societies do write off cash-backs immediately, while banks tend to amortize the cost over the period of time the customer is locked in to the lender when he has taken one of the special deals on offer – usually three or five years.

The Bank suggested that it did not have a view on whether the amount should be written off or amortized, but it felt strongly that there should be more accounting openness.

Only Abbey National was singled out as a lender that amortizes the cost and provides sufficient information in its accounts to demonstrate the cost. Abbey disclosed that if it had written off the cost of special offers immediately it would have knocked £105 million from its £1.02 billion profits last year.

The annual report showed that Eddie George, the governor, received a £3,008 pay rise in the year, taking his total pay package to £232,423.



Rain failed to halt the opening of the Corney & Barrow Golf Croquet League at Exchange Square in the Broadgate, London. Pictured, from left, are Roger Ambrose, of the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, David Goodenough, and Nick Tant, both representing Kleinwort Benson, and Count Edouard de Nazzle, who was playing for Veuve Clicquot

CBI backs Major on beef stance

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders yesterday uncomfortably closed ranks behind the Government's policy of non-cooperation with Europe over beef.

As leaders of the Confederation of British Industry uneasily supported the Prime Minister's move, the CBI's policy of strict political neutrality in the run-up to the election came under strain when its new president, Sir Colin Marshall, endorsed John Major's prospects at the polls.

After the Government's aggressive declaration against the EU over its beef ban, CBI leaders, who have been calling for a rational, unemotional and thoughtful debate over Europe, tried to shrug off what many believe could be the damage to business of a ban on European co-operation.

Bass acts coy on takeover aims

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SIR IAN PROSSER, chairman of Bass, yesterday predicted strong organic growth for the brewing and leisure company, but remained coy about its acquisition aims.

Sir Ian said that Bass was interested in strengthening its divisions through a large purchase, but was under no pressure to act.

"There is a lot of opportunity for us to grow organically, but we also have the firepower to take other opportunities when they arise," he said.

Sir Ian said he wanted to see more consolidation in the brewing sector, but refused to comment on speculation about Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewer. Bass has been linked with it, and also with William Hill, the betting chain, and Ladbrokes, the hotel company.

Bass yesterday unveiled a 10 per cent rise in interim profits, to £289 million, above expecta-

tions. This, and a bullish trading statement, helped Bass shares to rise 20p, to 78p.

The company said that it would speed up growth and was aiming to raise capital expenditure by £250 million, to £600 million, for the full year. Bass aims to open 100 new pubs by September and hopes to add a backlog of 516 hotels to the Holiday Inn chain over the next two years.

There was a strong performance by the hotel division, with Holiday Inn lifting its operating profits by 19 per cent, to £76 million. Managed houses increased operating profits by 23 per cent, to £106 million.

Bad weather and National Lottery scratchcards hit leisure division profits down by 17 per cent, to £55 million.

A 7.7p interim dividend, up 8.5 per cent, is due on July 29.

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Numbers on hold at Nynex

By ERIC REGULY

NYNEX CABLECOMMS is the first cable company to introduce phone number portability, which allows customers to keep the same number when they change to competing operators. The move will be introduced by the rest of the cable industry and is expected to take many customers from British Telecom.

The lack of number portability was considered one of the major barriers towards creating a free market in the residential phone sector. Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator, made its introduction one of its most important goals and took the issue to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last year after accusing BT of delaying its introduction.

Nynex, which is American-owned and the second largest cable company, to introduce number portability in its Derby franchise and will roll out the service in its other 15 franchises by August.

It will charge BT customers a £20 one-off fee to switch over. About £8 will go to BT to cover the costs of directing calls on to the Nynex network and another £4 will pay for a separate call conveyance charge.

BT is losing about 50,000 customers a month to the cable companies and analysts said that number portability will increase the loss rate.

Rate threat

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, made it clear at his April 3 meeting with the Bank of England Governor that he would be prepared to raise interest rates if economic growth proved "unsustainably fast". Page 26

Green law

Business would like to see the Government pass environmental laws more rigorously, according to a survey of leading companies by Enerit, the environmental consultancy. The main concerns were water and air pollution, waste disposal and contaminated land. Page 30

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Liberty to close 20 UK branches

By SARAH BAGNALL

LIBERTY, the upmarket but financially stretched retail and fabrics group, is to close 20 branches with the loss of 350 jobs.

The move, which will cost £5 million, leaves the group's retail activities focused on its flagship Regent Street store, three airport shops and three Muji outlets, which are a joint venture with a Japanese partner. The shares fell 15p to 350p.

The news follows last month's boardroom shake-up, involving the departure of Patrick Austen, chief executive, and the announcement of a fundamental strategic review aimed at repositioning the group.

The closure of the loss-making branches is the first result of the

review. The branches are spread across the country from Glasgow to Exeter and the latest one to open was in Fenchurch Street in the City of London last September.

Ian Thomson, who took over as chief executive on Mr Austen's departure, said: "The branches are not profitable. To replicate the Regent Street store in a very small space is not possible and as a result strategically they don't fit."

At the time of the management reshuffle, Liberty gave warning that it would make significant exceptional charges and yesterday it said the £5 million closure costs would only form part of these expected charges.

Liberty is due to announce its full-year results on June 7 and yesterday Mr Thomson said: "Details of the other substantial exceptional provi-



The Exeter store is among casualties

Big wages essential to City's competitiveness MMC must halt Alders sale Will Sir Rocco's plans be thwarted?

A safe haven for heavy hitters

BEST wishes to whichever lawyer takes the £700,000 on offer from Chadbourne & Peake, the American law firm looking for a heavy hitter to advise on project financing, but one wonders how long he or she will have to enjoy the money. We have all spent so long cosying up to new Labour that we may have lost sight of the full implications — at least for the City.

One of City analysts' duties today is to spot which sector of the market will do well under Tony Blair. But they may not have considered a matter rather closer to home, the effect on their own salaries. Labour has yet to put firm figures on its tax policies, but one must assume that the lawyers on £700,000 a year will be very much worse off. The party's mistake at the last election was to threaten punitive taxation on salaries around the £30,000 a year level that were regarded as modest in the areas of Britain Labour needed to capture, no matter how extravagant they might have seemed in its industrial heartland.

The decision at Walworth Road now is where to set the level above which earnings are potentially taxed. That £700,000 lawyer currently pays 40 per cent tax on almost all of it and takes home £35,000 a month. Assume 80 per cent taxation above the £100,000 level, not impossible

under Labour, and this falls to a rather less appealing £15,000. The recipient will rub shoulders each day in the City with professionals on the same whack whose pay would likewise fall. This is the perception gap between the City and outside that new Labour is unable to bridge because of old loyalties. What appears an obscenity in Grimsby sounds like a normal wage on Gresham Street.

Much was made five years ago of the threat to London from Frankfurt and other Continental exchanges. This threat never materialised. Germany's share of world stock market business may have grown since, but this growth has been comfortably exceeded in the City.

Overseas securities houses, particularly American, have felt comfortable setting up in London because they have been able to remunerate big hitters almost as well as at home. London's success has been fully accepted by the Continentals, which is why the second Big Bang over the past couple of years has seen them, too, pitching more tents in London.

Penalise high pay and Frankfurt looks rather more attractive.

Take a look across the Atlantic. In New York, successive mayors, Democrat and Republican and no matter the financial crises they faced, have never threatened Wall Street, because New York is every bit as much a one-industry town as some misbegotten Mid-West backwater with a big defence contractor in its midst. London is heading the same way. New York exists to allow young professionals to make sackloads of money. A City of London that cannot offer "obscene" wage packets is one that cannot hope to compete.

Cause to ground duty-free deal

SWISSAIR'S attempt to break up BAA's cosy deal to buy the duty free business from Alders raises two serious questions. Alders seems happy to sell its business to BAA for £15 million less than Swissair is willing to pay. Why, and what do its shareholders think of this? And should BAA be allowed to buy it



PENNINGTON

in the first place?

The deal was precipitated by BAA's decision six months ago to take all its duty free sales in-house. Concessions for selling supposedly cheap drink, cigarettes and perfumes had long gone to two retailers, Alders and Alpha Airports. But BAA told them it would either terminate their contracts or not renew them as they ran out. Alders decided to sell out. Alpha, whose contracts run out between now and 1999, said it would rather strike deals for other concessions with BAA.

Duty free within the European Union will supposedly end in 1999 if there still is a European Union, Mr Major. But there is still the long haul business, and a

rather lucrative one it is. Since being privatised ten years ago, BAA has survived one Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into its all-consuming position in the South East with the three main airports. Earlier this week the Commons Transport Select Committee suggested that BAA should be forced to sell Gatwick and Stansted.

BAA's trenchant reply was that airports are a world market. Customers and airlines have a choice of flying from London, Paris, Copenhagen or Kuala Lumpur. Hogwash. If you want to fly into London, the only possibly alternative is Luton. God forbid, unless you fancy Birmingham or Manchester (voted the world's favourite airport, by the way) and a drive back down the M6.

Not only does BAA own the airports, it will also own the duty free. If the Alders deal goes through, BAA will then have a near monopoly on duty free across the UK and large parts of Europe. Shareholders in Alders will no doubt see sense and back the higher Swissair bid. But what is needed is for the MMC to

look into the whole issue of duty free and block BAA's deal with Alders before it has a chance of going through.

Turn and turn again for Granada

WERE Gerry Robinson not so pragmatic a businessman, someone unwilling to hold a grudge where there is a profit to be made, it might be tempting to see the refusal to sell the Meridien hotels as his last revenge on Sir Rocco Forte for all those bitter words during the winter's takeover battle.

Sir Rocco had made it absolutely clear that the Meridien chain was central to his entire strategy and financing. Readers of this column may not be too surprised at the decision by Granada not to sell. Retention had always seemed an attractive option, given the cost savings available from the sort of management skills Granada could bring to bear, the booming state of the hotels market and the (relatively) comfortable level of interest cover Granada is look-

ing at this financial year despite its £3.6 billion of debt.

Yesterday's formal announcement should have come as bad news to Sir Rocco and his aides perched incongruously above their former public relations adviser as they complete the necessary financing package. But there is the truth and there is the striking of a bargaining position, on both sides it seems.

Mr Robinson has now changed his mind twice, initially planning to keep the hotels, then aiming to sell them to assuage City concerns about debt and now willing to keep Meridien at least. He might turn yet again, for a profit. And Sir Rocco's ambitions in hotels might not be so easily thwarted either.

Lucky break

THE National Lottery has been accused of any number of crimes — cannibalism, incest, mass starvation, no doubt, this week alone. But it is hard to see how it can have wiped a quarter of a billion pounds, or almost 40 per cent, off the value of William Hill's betting shop. More likely that George Walker's creation, which now comprises the betting shops and a chain of pubs, has taken the opportunity of the Lottery to write down the bookies to rather closer to what they are worth ahead of an eventual sale.

Courtaulds blames price instability for decline



Howard Evans, finance director, left, and Sipko Huismans

BY PAUL DURMAN

COURTAULDS has forecast that sales of Tencel, the "wonder fibre" on which it has pinned many of its hopes for the future, will be running at about £265 million a year by the end of next year.

Tencel moved into profit last year on estimated sales of about £50 million. Courtaulds has brought forward plans for a third Tencel plant in Grimsby, Humberside, that will increase its capacity to nearly 100,000 tonnes a year.

Gordon Campbell, who replaces Sipko Huismans as the company's chief executive after next month's annual meeting, said that demand continues to outstrip production capacity. Tencel, which, the company claims, feels like silk but is as tough as denim, is being used in clothes for Marks & Spencer, Next, Jaeger and many others.

Mr Campbell suggested that Tencel may represent 20 per cent of the group's total sales, currently £2.3 billion, by 2003. Courtaulds has invested about £20 million in Tencel.

The company was reporting a 13 per cent decline in annual pre-tax profits, to £31 million.

Mr Huismans blamed the wildly gyrating prices of key raw materials, acrylonitrile and wood pulp, which doubled and then collapsed back to the original levels within a year.

Mr Huismans said this "intolerable" instability

caused ordering delays for acrylics and viscose. Courtaulds had held on to its market share, however, while in the past, such price shocks would have produced "near total wipe-outs", he said. Courtaulds wants to prevent a repeat, and is trying to tie its suppliers into longer term contracts.

Profits from the fibres and chemicals business fell from £79 million to £58 million. The coatings and sealants arm increased profits by £10 million, to £71 million, helped by a debut contribution of £4 million from Meinhert & Veech, of Germany. Mr Campbell expects increased production by aerospace manufacturers to produce another good year for its business-making sealants to prevent fuel leaking out of aeroplanes.

Demand for Courtaulds' powder coatings in the Asia-Pacific region remained strong, and the company is building new factories in China and Korea. Total Far East profits fell £2 million, to £13 million, on sales of £165 million.

Polymer products, a division that includes performance films and toothpaste packaging, made £19 million (£20 million). Results were hit by problems moving a US factory. A final dividend of 11.6p increases the total to 15.9p a share (15.4p).

Crest on target for July

MIDWAY through testing, Crest, the new electronic share settlement system that is due to replace the Stock Exchange's existing Tallyman system, is still on track to go live on July 15 (Philip Pangalos writes).

The system is now being tested by 260 firms across the UK and Ireland. The transition, which is being supervised by the Bank of England, will begin on July 22, with the first settlement in Crest due to take place on August 19. The transition period is due to end next April.

The Crest system will have cost about £25 million from August 1993 to the time it is implemented. Total finance is £29 million, with the balance required to see Crest through until it starts to make money next year.

Demand for Crest

shares in Saks Fifth Avenue, the upmarket Manhattan clothes store, soared to a hefty premium when trading began after its flotation, even though Saks has made big losses in the past five years.

Priced at \$25, the shares rose \$10 to \$35, in early trading yesterday as Saks' high-quality name attracted buyers in spite of the fact that last year the company reported a \$64 million net loss. The share issue raised \$360 million.

The success of the Saks offering mirrors Wall Street's enthusiasm for other luxury retailers. Earlier this week,

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Gucci, the fashion and leather retailer, announced a surge in first-quarter sales of 113 per cent. The shares rose sharply, to \$70.50, against an issue price of \$22 last October.

Other companies to have issued shares in recent months include Donna Karan, the clothes designer and Estée Lauder, the cosmetics group. Their share prices have soared as investors rushed into what is widely seen as one of the most buoyant stock market sectors.

Saks, owned from 1973 to 1990 by BAT Industries, the British tobacco group, is now owned by Investcorp.

He is also launching radio stations, among them Heart 106.2 in London, and is bidding for several licences. There is a new film company, Chrysalis Films, whose first release, *Stiff Upper Lips*, is coming out later this year. If the new films and the recording artists are successes, Chrysalis could break into profit earlier than expected.

In the half year to February 29, Chrysalis reported a pre-tax loss of £2.86 million, against a loss of £2.49 million in the previous period, on turnover of £6.3 million, up 20 per cent. Mr Wright said the losses were in line with expectations.

The loss per share after taxation and minority interests was 9.35p, compared to 9.92p. No interim dividend was payable and the company said it would announce the final dividend along with the year-end results in the autumn. In spite of the losses, Chrysalis said it could fund a major expansion of its radio interests. The company has £25 million in cash and has no plans for a rights issue.

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Worries hit the utilities to lead equities lower

GROWING political and regulatory worries took their toll on utility companies, leaving brokers wondering if the privatised gravy train is finally slowing down.

Leading the electricity companies lower was the National Grid, 6p off at 177.4p, ahead of publication of the regulators' price formula. If it is even half as tough as proposals suggested by the gas regulator for British Gas, a fresh wave of selling is likely.

The rest of the electricity sector lost ground, still uncertain what steps an incoming Labour government would introduce. East Midlands fell 11p to 59p, London 2p to 70p, Southern 13p to 74p, PowerGen 12p to 517p and National Power 8p to 520p.

The water companies also had a worried look as they continued to reflect on this week's decision to refer bids by Severn Trent, down 13p at 546p, and Wessex, unchanged at 312p, from South West Water, 8p lower at 651p, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Other losers included Anglian Water, down 17p to 518p, United Utilities, down 10p to 549p, and Yorkshire, down 12p to 619p.

The rest of the equity market suffered sharp falls, with investors becoming increasingly nervous about the Government's tough stance against the European beef ban. Sharp falls in government bonds combined with a sell-off in the financial future added to the market's woes. An opening fall on Wall Street left the FT-SE 100 index nursing a deficit of 252 points at 3,764.2 as turnover reached 804 million shares.

There was further heavy turnover in Railtrack as the price slipped 1p to 219p. BZW has issued a covered warrant in Railtrack amounting to 25 million shares, issued at 21p. The issue was oversubscribed.

Evidence of an all-round increase in first-quarter sales at Kingfisher, the Woolworth, Comet, Superdrug and B&Q stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 12p to 620p. Brokers were impressed with a positive performance from B&Q, the group's struggling DIY arm.

Kingfisher told shareholders that overall sales were up almost 11 per cent to £1.24 billion and were up 6.4 per cent on a like-for-like basis. But with the group heavily



Sir Ian Prosser, right, and Richard North, finance director, of Bass. The share rose 20p on first-half results

dependent on the second half, few brokers were ready to raise their year-end forecasts.

Easy come, easy go, seems to be the motto at British Biotechnology as the shares gave up all of Tuesday's sharp gains. The price succumbed to profit-taking, ending 25p lower at £30.65 on turnover of less than one million shares.

They almost touched £29 at

National Westminster Bank fell 12p to 627p after NatWest Securities, its own broking arm, reduced its profit forecast by £100 million, to £1.26 million. It blames the move on the higher than expected cost of restructuring its branches and recommends clients switch into rival Barclays Bank, 6p easier at 776p.

One stage this week. Other biotech issues were marked lower, with Chiroscience dropping 30p to 475p, Cortes International, 1p to 35p, Scotia Holdings 35p to 730p, Scotia 25p to 530p and Cellectech 25p to 535p.

Park Foods Group, the food hamper distributor, reacted to Tuesday's belated news of a bid approach with a rise of 1p to 100p. Brokers

were expressing scepticism about the likely success of the bid by Stuart Marks, a former director of Park. At these levels Park Foods is capitalised at £145 million.

Better than expected half-year figures sent shares of Bass, whose chairman is Sir Ian Prosser, climbing 20p to 788p. Pre-tax profits grew from £263 million to £289

million, forcing analysts to upgrade full-year estimates.

Merrill Lynch, the broker, has increased its final number by £9 million to £665 million.

The group shed no light on speculation of interest in Allied Domecq's 50 per cent stake in the Carlsberg-Tetley joint venture. Allied fell 6p to 479p.

Sims Foods is one casualty of "mad cow" disease, which

soared 12p to 1,700p after

the company said it had

closed its UK plant.

KINGFISHER: FIRST SIGN OF PICK-UP AT B&Q

Kingfisher's share price has been on a steady upward climb since the start of the year, reaching a peak of 620p in March before a slight dip. The company's latest results show a strong performance, with sales up 11% and profits up 6.4%.

Analysts are optimistic about the company's future prospects.

Source: *Financial Times*

has caused plant closures, layoffs and short-time working. As a result the group has been forced to break off talks about the disposal of its retail division. Beef sales have now recovered 85 per cent. The shares were unchanged at 33p.

Courtaulds, the chemicals group, touched 407p before rebounding to end the day 7p better than 422p on the back of some optimistic remarks to brokers about current trading that accompanied an otherwise gloomy set of figures. Pre-tax profits were 13 per cent lower at £131 million, with the group squeezed by a combination of falling demand and rising raw material costs.

Blue Circle Industries

firm 3p to 364p despite some

cautious comments about current trading. Cement volumes at home during the early months of 1996 have fallen, depressed by severe weather conditions. Sir Peter Walters, chairman, said he was confident of market recovery.

Jarvis, the construction group, returned from suspension at 93p after announcing plans to spend £9 million acquiring British Rail's northern infrastructure maintenance division. To help to finance the deal Jarvis is arranging a placing and open offer of 40.54 million shares at 58p, raising £21.7 million.

Shares of Jarvis closed 25p dearer at 89p.

A bullish statement about trading conditions for the building industry in the US lifted Williams Holdings 5p to 336p.

GILT-EDGED: Investors were beating a retreat in early trading as prices reacted nervously to the late setback for US treasury bonds overnight.

The market's composure was soothed later in the session by a big buyer of longer dated issues that pared earlier losses. In the event, the market closed with small losses on the day.

In the future pit, the June series of the long gilt finished 13p down at 1016.4 as a total of 60,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, treasury 8 per cent 2015 slipped 1p to 1079.32, while at the shorter end treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks easier at 1020.16.

□ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street came under pressure from profit-takers and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 7.76 points

lower at 5,725.50.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	
Dow Jones	5728.50 (+2.76)
S&P Composite	672.71 (+0.02)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21958.00 (-13.74)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11082.79 (-5.98)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	561.31 (-0.53)
Sydney:	
ASX	2244.11 (+1.23)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2550.87 (-13.91)
Singapore:	
SGX	2313.02 (+2.86)
Brussels:	
General	9401.61 (+50.47)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2103.49 (+26.22)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	782.40 (-1.30)
London:	
FT 30	2799.0 (-1.63)
FT 100	3768.2 (-2.23)
FT-SE Mid 250	4512.3 (-16.9)
FT-SE 350	1906.9 (-11.15)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1687.92 (-4.92)
FT All Share	1897.0 (-1.01)
FT Fixed Profits	1897.0 (-1.01)
FT Blue Chip	1213.50 (-1.01)
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Businesses take tough line on green laws

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS would like to see the Government police environmental law more rigorously, a new study showed yesterday.

The survey shows that many UK companies are already going beyond the requirements of the law on environmental issues, confirming that green policies are moving up the business agenda. In the 1996 UK Business and the Environment Trends survey, 70 per cent of a sample of the Top 1,000 UK companies surveyed by Entec, the environmental consultancy, and the Green Alliance pressure group said that they now attach more importance to environmental issues than they did a year ago.

While companies said that they are primarily concerned about the health and safety of their own employees, other principal concerns include water and air pollution, waste disposal and contaminated land.

The study suggests that external pressures and growing corporate concern about the environment are prompting some companies to take measures that go beyond compliance with existing legislation.

Of those surveyed, 58 per cent said they take actions beyond the requirements of the law, though a "significant minority of 16 per cent" consider it unnecessary to do more than comply with current legislation.

Three-quarters of companies are broadly satisfied that current environmental legislation is not too onerous and a majority of 56 per cent believe that the current framework of laws and regulations on environmental issues should be policed more rigorously.

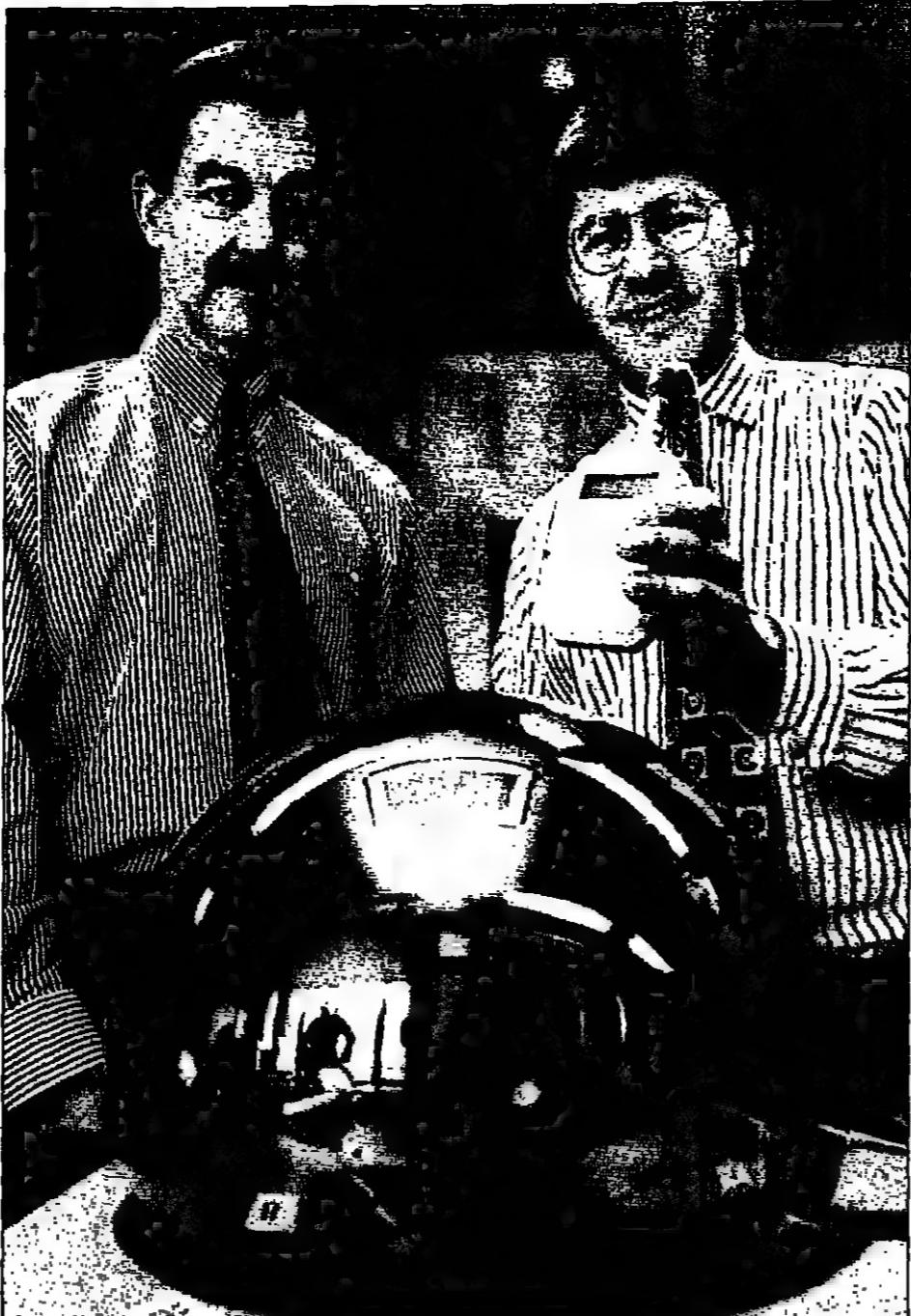
While the study concludes that the environment is having an ever greater impact on UK business, it suggests that the business case for investing in

the environment is not yet proven, with the cost of implementing improvement programmes and the lack of awareness of any benefits to business of them cited by companies as significant factors preventing them from taking further action on the issue.

Companies would like new financial incentives from the Government for good environmental practice, with a lower VAT rate for energy-efficient raw materials the most favoured option.

Chris Farman, Entec managing director, said that while it was encouraging to see that the overwhelming majority of UK companies believed it was important to be seen to be green, "business still needs to be persuaded that proactive management of environmental risks will deliver commercial and competitive advantage."

Julie Hill, Green Alliance director, said that the results of the survey were a "valuable measure of the extent to which the environment is being considered in business decision-making."



Expansion hopes: Richard Williams, left, and Glen Powers, Quadrematic's finance director

EMU forces rationalisation

By PATRICIA TEAHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CORPORATE Europe is on the brink of huge restructuring, forced on it by lower rates of real and nominal growth as governments strive to achieve the Maastricht criteria for monetary union.

According to a report by JP Morgan, the US investment bank, low inflation means that firms can no longer meet the rates of growth demanded by shareholders by investing. Other drivers of corporate restructuring are deregulation in Europe, consolidation of global sector factors and the

pressure on companies to become more focused.

Gary Dugan, European

strategist at JP Morgan, said

corporations are responding

by restructuring businesses,

cutting costs, and turning to

share buybacks as a way of

enhancing shareholder value.

He said that, historically,

investors demanded rates of

growth in excess of 10 per cent,

and, if the tax regime is right,

returning cash to

shareholders".

German, Swedish and

Swiss authorities are under-

stood to be considering

changes to the regulation and

taxation of share buybacks to

make them more attractive.

Quadrematic sees growth

QUADRATIC, the instrumentation and moulded products company, said the current order book is 19 per cent higher than last year.

In the six months to March 31 the company lifted profits to £6.22 million before tax from £4.87 million. Earnings rose to 9p a share from 7.6p.

The interim dividend is lifted to 3.8p a share from 3.2p, payable July 4.

Richard Williams, chief executive, said the company continued to seek opportunities for further growth through product development and expansion overseas.

Hong Kong business leaders appeal to Major

From TOM WALKER
IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S business leaders continued their campaign against Chris Patten, the Governor, yesterday, following up a letter of complaint to John Major with suggestions that it is time the Governor bowed to the inevitable and allowed chamber of commerce representatives to co-operate with China rather than than his democratic reforms.

An uneasy standoff between Government House and local tycoons gave way when it emerged that the colony's seven most influential chambers of commerce had written to the Prime Minister, venting their "profound disappointment" at Mr Patten's comments during his recent trip to America. He lobbied for the renewal of China's most-favoured-nation status, which is certainly in the interests of Hong Kong business.

The letter to Mr Major singled out a *Newsweek* article, headlined "Betraying Hong Kong", as having given the international community "the impression that business people in Hong Kong do not have the territory's best interests at heart."

In the article, Mr Patten complained that business leaders were doing little or nothing to underpin his democratic reforms.

In the 20-line letter to the Prime Minister, "democracy" is not mentioned once. Instead, business leaders were said to have faith in the "one country, two systems" principle of Chinese rule in Hong Kong after 1997.

There has been little love lost between the two sides since Mr Patten returned from Canada last week.

In Bangkok, Donald Tsang, the Hong Kong Government Financial Secretary, steered clear of the crisis altogether and forecast an economic boom on China's takeover. He predicted 7 per cent growth in the colony for the last half of 1997 and early 1998, revising earlier figures of about 5 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

IBM and Telefónica sign on-line pact

IN A DEAL that will put Spain firmly on the global "info-map", IBM and Telefónica, the Spanish state-run telecommunications company, have concluded a collaboration agreement for the Spanish on-line services market. The agreement was signed yesterday by Juan Carlos Usandizaga, president of IBM Spain, and Cándido Velázquez, president of Telefónica. As a result, all IBM personal computers sold in Spain will include software that allows online access to Infovia, Telefónica's information network. In addition, IBM's Global Network (IGN) — with nodes in 850 cities in more than 100 countries — will be connected to Infovia, allowing users of the Spanish network automatic access to the full range of IGN's services. IBM has also undertaken to promote Infovia to the clients in its portfolio, estimated to number more than 25,000 commercial enterprises worldwide. Telefónica is committed to extending its accord with IBM to telecommunications companies in Argentina, Chile and Peru in which it has a controlling interest.

Whessoe shares slide

SHARES of Whessoe fell 36p to 134p yesterday after the instrumentation and control company cut its interim dividend to 1.1p a share from 1.5p, in spite of returning to profit in the six months to March 31. Pre-tax profits were £14,000, compared with losses of £2.3 million in the first half of the previous year. Losses per share were reduced to 1p, from 10.4p last time. George Duncan, chairman, said that the markets in which Whessoe operates remain "very competitive".

Placing at Parkland

PARKLAND GROUP is raising £7.5 million through a placing and open offer to diversify into industrial textiles. New shares are being offered at 173p each, against yesterday's price of 190p. Parkland also announced the purchase of Autofil, a supplier of yarns for the automotive industry, for about £900,000. Yesterday Parkland reported profits of £2.54 million (£21.5 million) before tax for the 12 months to March 3. The total dividend is held at 5.5p a share, with a second interim dividend of 3.5p due July 8.

Merchant Retail in red

MERCHANT RETAIL GROUP, the department store and specialty retailer that owns Jollipins and The Perfume Shop, incurred a pre-tax loss of £2.16 million in the year to March 31. This included an exceptional charge of £2.73 million, principally against the sale of Normans, the cash-and-carry business. In the previous 12 months the company earned profits of £1.08 million. Operating profits before exceptional charges rose 12 per cent to £2.63 million. Losses were 3.27p a share (earnings of 1.04p). There is again no dividend.

Protest at CRA meeting

CRA, the Australian mining group, came under attack for its industrial relations record at a fiery annual meeting yesterday but kept alive an A\$1.1 billion (£577 million) zinc project opposed by native landowners. CRA, half of a dual-listed company structure with Britain's RITZ Corp, delayed the start of the meeting by an hour after scores of striking CRA miners blocked the entrance to the meeting during a protest. Hundreds of shareholders were abused by angry miners when they eventually entered the building.

A little light brings much relief

Underclaiming for expenditure on buildings is rife. It's a world of complexity, says Philip Feibusch

DO THE recent court decisions in *Melluish v BMI (No 3)* and *Others v Andwood and Anduff Car Wash* affect you? They will affect you in some way if you want to benefit from the significant tax relief that is available for fixed plant and machinery (eg, lifts, heating), even if you are not a taxpayer.

These cases relate to the entitlement to tax relief for certain capital expenditure and the complex issues raised are important. Commercial depreciation is not allowable for tax purposes but, instead, capital allowances are given at fixed rates. On sale or disposal of the assets an adjustment is made to reflect the actual depreciation.

Expenditure on the structure of a property is not allowable unless it qualifies for Industrial Buildings Allowances. Qualifying structures are defined in the legislation and tax relief is normally given over a 25-year tax life. For other properties, while no relief is available for the structure, tax relief is given for the cost of machinery and plant over a period of years at 25 per cent per annum on a reducing balance basis.

Up to 40 per cent of the cost of an office may qualify in this way. Overall allowances for a property, including those for the fixed plant and machinery,

are often more generous than those available in many other countries. So what is the problem?

In *BMI v Melluish*, tax relief was available for heating units, among other items, installed after July 12, 1984, but not for the same type of units installed before that date. Why was this?

To cut a very long story extremely short, BMI, a tax-paying leasing company, paid for the heating units, which were installed in local authority properties, in return for rent to be paid by the authority at levels set to reflect the benefit of the allowances to be claimed by BMI. The units were fixed to the building and the House of Lords found that BMI was not entitled to the allowances as it failed to meet the prerequisites of establishing a claim, that is, it failed to show that the machinery and plant belonged to it.

In law, the units had become part of the building to which they were fixed, and therefore belonged to the local authority, in spite of a clause in the lease contract retaining BMI's title. Allowances were confirmed, however, for heating units installed after July 12, 1984. This is because BMI and the local authority were able to take advantage of a change in the legislation effective from that date and make



Philip Feibusch says the law is not written in plain English

an election for BMI to claim the allowances.

In the *Anduff* case a specially designed car wash hall was held not to qualify for capital allowances, even though previously accepted by Special Commissioners. Although the court acknowledged that the wash hall functioned particularly well for the taxpayer's trade, it was still considered by them to be part of the premises as does the necessary anti-tax avoidance

legislation to stop allowances being claimed more than once, or at inflated values, or, as seen earlier, unexpectedly not being available due to a quirk.

How complex is the legislation? A comment made during the parliamentary debate about a note to one of two new tables being introduced in the Finance Act 1994 to "clarify" what may not be claimed, probably says it all. Stephen Dorrell, who was then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told the House: "All ministers rely from time to time on the advice of parliamentary draftsmen. I confess that I have studied the text to note 2 table 2 for some time. I am not sure that it was clear to me precisely what it meant, either before the amendment that I am now moving, or after it."

Capital allowances are important but very few companies maximise their entitlement, not for the want of trying but because the system has become so confusing.

Unless the system is changed may I suggest the following questions are considered when preparing a claim (they may help a little, but definitely do not cover every eventuality). Does the item "belong" to you for tax purposes? Is it qualifying plant or machinery? Is it valued or costed correctly?

Has it been claimed and notified correctly and in time? Is or has anyone else been entitled to claim allowances? Is it capital expenditure?

Philip Feibusch is head of the Arthur Andersen capital allowances practice

tax debate has steadily filled a hall, rather than emptying it.

Light years ahead

EXPANSION of Arthur Andersen has brought technological marvels. Its new offices in the Strand have no light switches. Bafflingly, the lights are operated from the telephones. Arthur Andersen's people, as we all know, work 24-hour days, eight days a week. For them, the problems of dialling home and having all the lights go out is a common one.

ROBERT BRUCE

Uneasy lies the truce that cloaks tax world

TAX can never be fair. As long as one group within society is charged, theoretically by the rest of society, with the task of removing a percentage of everyone's income then there will always be grumbling, at the very least.

The best that can be hoped for is an uneasy truce, a belief that a difficult job is being done with great efficiency and as much fairness as its complexity will allow. The trouble is that it is now generally believed that what had always been a rather bumpy playing field is being turned into an increasingly steep slope towards the Inland Revenue.

Last November the Hardiman memorial lecture, given by David Goldberg, QC, put the facts fairly and squarely. Last week the tax faculty of the English ICA held a public debate to extend and air the topic. A decade ago such a debate could have been held round a table in one of the committee rooms. It is a measure of the passions aroused and the feeling that this issue is now crucial to the survival of the traditions of the tax world that the great hall of the institute was packed with a quality audience.

The tax world has changed. What used to be a highly intelligent but relatively intimate world is being pulled asunder. Tax is now big business. And as a consequence the safety valves and buffers that used to prevent what is essentially an adversarial process from becoming nasty and unproductive are less in evidence.

The debate was over the extent and control of Revenue discretion. Goldberg, in his lecture, argued that the Inland Revenue, in changing its culture to that of a combative business, was throwing away the give-and-take that allowed its relationship with tax advisers and their clients to be as fair as possible. Innocent people were automatically being threatened with blunt instruments.

In the debate, Graham Aaronson, QC, the chairman of the Revenue Bar Association, argued that controls over the Revenue had been weakened. Both politicians and the law were to blame. "Ministers kowtow to the Revenue", he argued. And he lambasted the courts for "the mealy-mouthed way they supervise the Revenue's discretion".

John Gribben, head of the Revenue's compliance division, argued that "the Revenue's discretion is highly controlled". And maybe it is. It is not something you can objectively test. Tim Smith, the MP and chartered accountant who sits on the Public Accounts Committee, argued that there had to be "a trade-off between discretion and fairness", and that the Revenue should be given the benefit of the doubt.

ROBERT BRUCE

The Revenue line is that most people wanting a pre-transaction ruling are seeking to test out what they think is a wizard wheeze in the tax-avoidance business. Not so, argued the Scots. Requests for pre-transaction rulings are the result of complexities of tax law rather than a desire to construct tax-avoidance schemes.

The truth is that in recent years tax has become a high-profile topic. For one thing virtually every political argument in recent years has centred on tax. And as more people take an interest their tax affairs become more complex. More people are needed to sort things out and maintain the peace. This is true on both sides. The tax advisory business is booming. The Revenue needs many more staff to handle the huge increase in work. Sadly the politicians have told them to cut staff and put their faith in computers. The balance in sorting out the justice of any particular case tilts once more. Unless everyone is careful, the uneasy truce will become open warfare.

A promise of fun and games

THERE were revolutionary words from David Frost, the new president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, at the institute's annual meeting yesterday.

"Fun," Mr Frost said, "is the first initiative of my presidential year."

Given that his year will include the introduction of the self-assessment system, you can see why people wondered if the new president had a twisted sense of humour.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

But no. He intends to launch a series of charitable events called "Tax Relief". Aided by Tolley Publishing and the Michael Page Group, the intention is for tax practitioners to invent their own charitable events under the "Tax Relief" umbrella. These, said Frost, could range from cricket matches to sponsored dieting.

The setting up of a set of stocks in the courtyard of the Inland Revenue headquarters might be an equally popular move.

Gain without pain

THE temporary accountants' market is booming. So we should applaud some remarkable timing on the part of James Wheeler, managing director of Hewitson-Walker, the leading agency providing temporary accountants. He is now chief executive, having engineered what he says was a poll paradox

Light years ahead

THE taxmen could have done some counting practice at the English ICA last week. At the tax faculty debate on the Inland Revenue's powers of discretion, a straw poll was



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	High	Low	Company	Price	%	W	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
4707 Alitalia Beverage	47	46	92	18.1	-1	2	23
1511 Amcor	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1115 Amcor Soft	11	10	93	18.1	-1	2	23
613 Amcor Beverage A	62	61	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1115 Amcor Beverage B	11	10	93	18.1	-1	2	23
425 Amcor Beverage C	42	41	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1505 Amcor Beverage D	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1506 Amcor Beverage E	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1507 Amcor Beverage F	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1508 Amcor Beverage G	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1509 Amcor Beverage H	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1510 Amcor Beverage I	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1511 Amcor Beverage J	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1512 Amcor Beverage K	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1513 Amcor Beverage L	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1514 Amcor Beverage M	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1515 Amcor Beverage N	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1516 Amcor Beverage O	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1517 Amcor Beverage P	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1518 Amcor Beverage Q	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1519 Amcor Beverage R	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1520 Amcor Beverage S	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1521 Amcor Beverage T	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1522 Amcor Beverage U	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1523 Amcor Beverage V	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1524 Amcor Beverage W	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1525 Amcor Beverage X	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1526 Amcor Beverage Y	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
1527 Amcor Beverage Z	15	14	93	18.1	-1	2	23
BANKS							
3004 2735 Asia AMCO	30	29	117	17.2	-1	2	23
1528 Asia First	15	14	105	17.2	-1	2	23
1529 Asia New 2	15	14	82	17.2	-1	2	23
1530 Asia Pacific	15	14	82	17.2	-1	2	23
1531 Asia United	15	14	82	17.2	-1	2	23
1532 Asia United	15	14	82	17.2	-1	2	23
1533 Asia United	15	14	82	17.2	-1	2	23
1534 Asia United	15	14	82	17.2	-1	2	23
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1598 Asia United	15	14	82	17.2	-1	2	23
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1608 Asia United	15	14	82	17.2	-1	2	

Law Report May 23 1996 House of Lords

Asylum applicant disqualified through non-political crime

T v Secretary of State for the Home Department
Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Lloyd of Berwick
(Speeches May 22)

Involvement in an airport bomb attack in which 10 people died disqualifies an applicant for political asylum from the protection of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) (Cmnd 9717) as it was too remote from his political purpose to be a political crime or, as a terrorist offence, it was not a

Accordingly, the Immigration Appeal Tribunal had been entitled to find that there were serious reasons for considering that the applicant had committed a serious non-political crime outside the United Kingdom and was excluded by article 1F(b) of the Convention from the protection of article 33(1).

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the applicant, T, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neasey, Lord Justice Glidwell and Lord Justice Simon Brown) (Times November 9, 1994; [1995] 1 WLR 545) who had dismissed his appeal from the appeal tribunal which had dismissed his appeal from a special adjudicator, who had dismissed his appeal against the refusal by the Home Secretary of his application for political asylum.

Article 33 of the Geneva Convention provides: "(f) No contracting state shall expel or return ('refouler') a refugee ... to the frontier of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."

Article I provides: "The provisions of this Convention shall not apply to any person with respect to whom there are serious reasons for considering that ... (b) he has committed a serious non-political crime outside the country of refuge prior to his admission to that country as a refugee."

Paragraph 328 of the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (1994) (HC 324) provides: "All asylum applica-

tions will be determined by the secretary of state in accordance with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention."

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Richard Scamell for T; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Neil Garrinham for the immigration officer.

LORD MUSTILL said that during the nineteenth century those who used violence to challenge despotic regimes often occupied the high moral ground and were welcomed in foreign countries as true patriots and democrats.

Now much had changed. The authors of violence were more ruthless, their methods more destructive and indiscriminating; their targets were no longer ministers and heads of state but the populace at large, and their aims and ideals were frequently no more congenial to the countries in which they took refuge than those of the regimes whom they sought to displace.

Those fundamental changes in method and perception had not been matched by changes in the parallel, although not identical laws of extradition and asylum. The exceptional difficulty of the appeal was that the courts here, as in other legal systems, had struggled to apply a concept that was out of date.

T was an illegal immigrant, having entered the United Kingdom under a false name and papers. He was a national of Algeria and a member of a group named FIS, which, according to the evidence on his behalf, had been created of success in a democratic election and had recourse to violent means aimed at displacing the ruling party.

Among the activities of FIS in which T had played a part had been the detonation of a bomb at an airport in Algiers; 10 people had been killed, none of them having had, so far as was known, any connection with the opponents of T's group or with the struggle in which the group was engaged. Unfortunately, the way in which that apparently random violence might have served the ends of FIS had not been explored in the proceedings. Their Lordships had little

more than one or two statements by T in evidence that the objective of the bomb had been to hit the national economy rather than kill people. He had also admitted to some degree of involvement in an attack on an army barracks in which one person had died.

To his Lordship's mind, the whole trend of the more modern decisions and writings was towards an acceptance that certain acts of violence, even if political in a narrow sense, were beyond the pale and that they should not be condoned by offering sanctuary to those who committed them.

The appeal tribunal had found that T had been actively involved in a terrorist organisation that was prepared to advance its aims by random killing. It had concluded that it would be against common sense and right reason to characterise indiscriminate bombings that led to the deaths of innocent people as political crimes so as to remove them from article 1F(b) and that it could not have been the intention of the Convention to accord protection to those who engaged in the terrorist activities in which T engaged.

The Court of Appeal had said (at [1995] 1 WLR 545): "the airport bombing ... was an atrocious act, grossly out of proportion to any genuine political objective. There was simply no sufficiently close or direct causal link between it and T's alleged political purpose."

The conception that there had to be a causal link, and an absence of remoteness, between the political situation of which the refugee formed part and the crime that he had committed drew its authority, if not its origin, from Lord Diplock's speech in *R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Cheng* ([1973] AC 944-952).

The principal argument applied in *R v Governor of Weston Green Prison, Ex parte Lings* ([1975] 1 WLR 893), was one of a breach of international law, grossly out of proportion to any genuine political objective. There was simply no sufficiently close or direct causal link between it and T's alleged political purpose."

Yet there were serious problems. The difficult decision on whether there was a sufficient discontinuity between the political aim and the crime to mean that the crime was to be treated as "common" was not made any easier by using "causation" in a special sense. It was safer to rely on the words of the Convention.

So also with "remoteness". To introduce into the international law of asylum and extradition a test derived from the specialist English law of damages took the inquiry nowhere, except back to the central issue. To say that the political aim had to cause the crime, or that the crime must be no more remote from the aim, did no more than assert that the crime had to be of political nature to fall within the exception.

His Lordship would also reject the test of "proportionality" and a theme that had appealed to judges in the United States and Canada that those who had committed unpleasant crimes were unwelcome. Article 1F(b) assumed that a person who had committed a serious crime, which might make him just as unwelcome in the country of refuge, was immune from refoulement so long as his offence could be characterised as political.

At the heart of the case was the Home Secretary's contention, with much support from decided cases and texts, that the point at which criminal conduct that would otherwise be political lost that attribute was when it could be described as "an atrocity" or "terrorism". His Lordship preferred terrorism as a test because it concentrated on the method of the offence rather than its physical manifestation.

It seemed to him in a real sense that a political crime, the killing of A by B to achieve an end, involved a direct relationship between the ends of the criminal and the victim which was absent in the depoliticised abstract violence that killed 20, or even more, in a terrorist attack.

His Lordship did not wish to do anything to undermine the importance of genuine political fugitives, even those who had committed serious crimes, from being granted asylum. Without resort, however, to tests like remoteness

outweigh that cold indifference to the human rights of the uninvolved.

Article I of the League of Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism, 1937 provided: "2 'Acts of terrorism' mean criminal acts directed against a state and intended or calculated to create a state of terror in the minds of particular persons or of the general public, and that caused, or were likely to cause injury to persons who had no connection with the government of the state.

That was not intended to be a complex definition. There might be other acts that constituted terrorism that were far outside the concept of "political

and proportionality", "political crime" did not as a matter of interpretation of the Convention and the Immigration Rules include acts of violence that were intended or likely to create a state of terror in the minds of persons, whether particular persons or the general public, and that caused, or were likely to cause injury to persons who had no connection with the government of the state.

That was not intended to be a complex definition. There might be other acts that constituted terrorism that were far outside the concept of "political

LORD LLOYD said that he agreed with the reasoning of the Court of Appeal.

The importance of *Cheng* lay in Lord Diplock's discussion of the word "political". If the accused had killed a dictator in the hope of changing the government of his country his object would be sufficiently immediate to justify the epithet "political" for politics were about government. But if he had robbed a bank to obtain funds to support a political party the object was far removed to constitute a political offence.

In other words, a crime would only be regarded as a political offence if the relationship between the act and the effect on the government was sufficiently close.

LORD SLYNN said that he had doubts as to whether the test of remoteness was satisfactory in itself. Whether there was a sufficiently direct link between the criminal act and a political objective might pose an extremely difficult question to resolve and risk fine lines being drawn.

His Lordship was not, for example, at all certain that for a terrorist group to rob a bank for the express and sole purpose of buying arms or guns to achieve political ends was clearly too remote to be regarded as a political crime, as had been said in earlier cases.

His Lordship did not wish to do anything to undermine the importance of genuine political fugitives, even those who had committed serious crimes, from being granted asylum. Without resort, however, to tests like remoteness

objective. The political nature of the offence is also more difficult to accept if it involves acts of an atrocious nature."

Taking the various sources of law into account, one could arrive at the following definition. A crime was a political crime for the purposes of article 1F(b) if:

1 it was committed for a political purpose, that was to say, with the object of overthrowing or subverting or changing the government of a state or inducing it to change its policy; and

2 there was a sufficiently close and direct link between the crime and the alleged political purpose.

In determining whether such a link existed, the court would bear in mind the means used to achieve the political end and would have particular regard to whether the crime had been aimed at a military or government target or a civilian target and, in either event whether it had been likely to involve the indiscriminate killing or injuring of members of the public.

It satisfied the first, or subjective, condition, but did he satisfy the second, or objective, condition?

On the findings of the appeal tribunal, he had not been a active member of a terrorist organisation that had been prepared to advise its aims by random killing. He had been closely associated with the actual attack.

Although the airport itself could be regarded as a governmental target, the crime as carried out had been almost bound to involve the killing of members of the public. The means used had been indiscriminate, and therefore the link between the crime and the political object that had been seeking to achieve had been too remote.

The appeal tribunal had accordingly been entitled to hold that there were serious reasons for considering that T had committed a serious non-political crime outside the United Kingdom. It was unnecessary to consider whether the attack on the barracks had also been a serious non-political crime.

Lord Keith and Lord Browne-Wilkinson agreed with Lord Lloyd.

Solicitors: Jane Coker & Partners, Treasury Solicitor.

Common terms of employment are comparable rather than identical

British Coal Corporation v Smith and Others

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann
(Speeches May 22)

For the purpose of considering whether men and women were to be treated as being in the same employment under section 1(2)(c) of the Employment Protection Act 1970, as amended by section 8(1) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and regulation 2(1) of the Equal Pay (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1983 No 1994), "common terms and conditions of employment" in section 1(6) of the 1970 Act, as amended by section 8(6) and Schedule 1, Part I, paragraph 10 to the 1975 Act, meant terms and conditions that were on a broad basis substantially comparable, rather than identical, and it was for the industrial tribunal to decide on the evidence what was or were the relevant class or classes for which such terms and conditions were observed.

The question under section 1(3) of the 1970 Act, as substituted by section 8(1) of the 1975 Act, whether a variation in terms was genuinely due to a material factor other than the difference of sex was also one of fact for the tribunal.

The House of Lords restored the decision of the industrial tribunal.

Section 1 of the 1970 Act, as amended and substituted, provides: "(i) ... (c) where a woman is employed on work which ... , in terms of the demands made on her (for instance under such headings as effort, skill and decision), of equal value to that of a man in the same employment — (ii) if apart from the equality clause at any time the woman's contract is ... less favourable to the woman than a term of a similar kind in the contract under which that man is employed, that term shall be treated as modified as not to be less favourable.. .

"(3) An equality clause shall not operate in relation to a variation between the woman's contract and the man's contract if the employer proves that the variation is genuinely due to a material factor which is not the difference of sex."

In part, in respect of cleaners under section 1(3), British Coal's appeal from an interlocutory decision of an industrial tribunal on a preliminary issue arising in an equal pay application by the applicants.

The House of Lords restored the decision of the industrial tribunal.

Section 1 of the 1970 Act, as amended and substituted, provides: "(i) ... (c) where a woman is employed on work which ... , in terms of the demands made on her (for instance under such headings as effort, skill and decision), of equal value to that of a man in the same employment — (ii) if apart from the equality clause at any time the woman's contract is ... less favourable to the woman than a term of a similar kind in the contract under which that man is employed, that term shall be treated as modified as not to be less favourable.. .

"(3) An equality clause shall not operate in relation to a variation between the woman's contract and the man's contract if the employer proves that the variation is genuinely due to a material factor which is not the difference of sex."

The industrial tribunal to the clarity of whose decision and the care with which it had been written, had found that it was concerned with four broad categories of worker: (i) cleaners workers who overall in British Coal's employment were predominantly women; (ii) cleaners and conditions are observed either generally or for employees of the relevant classes.

Mrs Nicholas Underhill, QC and Mr Barkin Thakur for British Coal; Mr Michael Beloff, QC, Mr Jeremy McMullan, QC and Miss Jennifer Eady for the applicants.

LORD SLYNN said that the appeals illustrated once again the difficult questions that could arise under the Act. That these particular proceedings had taken such an extraordinary amount of time was, however, much to be regretted since many of the claims had been lodged over 10 years ago. It clearly defeated an essential purpose of the legislation if employees could not enforce such rights as they had within a reasonable time.

The applicants, employed at 47 different establishments, had named a substantial number of comparators at 14 different establishments. Those were usually surface miners, although a number of the applicants in the canteen worker category had named a clerical worker as their comparator. Some of the comparators were dealt with centrally, clerical workers and cleaners were also treated as in the same employment with British Coal.

As to section 1(3), the tribunal had emphasised that the mere existence of separate pay structures could not of itself amount to a defence: it still had to be asked whether the pay structures themselves arose because of a difference of sex.

The tribunal had concluded that the different treatment of surface miners and canteen workers was not due to a desire to treat ancillary workers differently without regard to sex. British Coal had failed to prove a genuine material factor defence.

"(a) whether the applicants who do not name comparators who do not work at the same establishment as they do are in the same employment as those said comparators for the purposes of section 1(6) ... and (b) whether [British Coal] can succeed at the preliminary stage with a 'genuine material factor' defence under section 1(3) ... based upon separate wage structures."

It had not been disputed that the comparators, surface miners or clerical workers, had more lucrative remuneration packages than the applicants who had named them.

The Court of Appeal had held that in section 1(6) "common" meant "the same" and that the respective terms and conditions had to be the same at any rate in relation to the relevant classes of employees.

The tribunal had indicated that the reason for the different treatment of surface miners and canteen workers and cleaners was that the canteen workers and cleaners worked at other establishments and at their establishment were or would be employed on broadly similar terms. That was necessary, but it was also sufficient.

Whether any differences were justified would depend on the next stage of the examination under section 1(3). That inquiry, where the onus was on the employer, had not been intended to be excluded unless the terms and conditions of the men at the various establishments were identical. That was far too restrictive a test.

The "broad comparison" test was supported by *Lawerton v Chelmsford County Council* ([1989] AC 706, 717 and 745) by Lord Justices May and Lord Bridge of Harwich. The tribunal had not erred in law and there had clearly been material on which it could base its finding that the applicants and their comparators were in the same employment.

In the absence of a misdirection in law the question under section 1(3) was also essentially one of fact for the tribunal. The tribunal had been entitled to accept that the differentiation was based on sex.

It was now necessary for the tribunal to consider what should be the procedure to decide whether the work of the applicants and their comparators was of equal value.

If it had been seeking to exclude a woman's claim unless, subject to de minimis exceptions, there was complete identity of terms and conditions for the comparator and that at establishment and those that applied or would apply to a similar male worker at her establishment?

The Court of Appeal had held that in section 1(6) "common" meant "the same" and that the respective terms and conditions had to be the same at any rate in relation to the relevant classes of employees.

Morever, it was not just the term complained of as being discriminatory that had to be the same, but de minimis, between the terms and conditions of the men at the various establishments since she could not then show that they were in the same employment as she was.

The tribunal had indicated that it would examine the comparators chosen closely to see whether such a wide range was justified and that it would consider whether representative claims should go forward for expert assessment as to whether the jobs were of equal value.

The Court of Appeal had held that in section 1(6) "common" meant "the same" and that the respective terms and conditions had to be the same at any rate in relation to the relevant classes of employees.

It was now necessary for the tribunal to consider what the legislation had been trying to achieve.

Had it been seeking to exclude a woman's claim unless, subject to de minimis exceptions, there was complete identity of terms and conditions for the comparator and that at establishment and those that applied or would apply to a similar male worker at her establishment?

The Court of Appeal had held that in section 1(6) "common" meant "the same" and that the respective terms and conditions had to be the same at any rate in relation to the relevant classes of employees.

It was now necessary for the tribunal to consider what the legislation had been trying to achieve.

It was now necessary for the tribunal to consider what the legislation had been trying to achieve.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES**THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**

DANTRY FOODS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 38 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above-named company will be held at the offices of Messrs Dancy Foods Ltd, 120 Stow Maries Road, Ilford, Essex IG2 7JH, on Friday 24 May 1996, at 10.30 am, for the purpose of receiving statements of account and for the consideration of the affairs of the company and for the determination of the necessary steps to be taken in respect of the administration of the company.

A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at



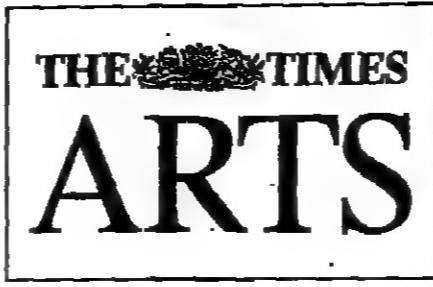
CHOICE 1

Gemma Craven stars as the rootin'-tootin' Calamity Jane
VENUE: Tonight at Sadler's Wells



CHOICE 2

Sarah Brightman sings Gershwin, Sondheim and Lloyd Webber
VENUE: Tonight at Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow



CHOICE 3

In Leeds, Paul Shelley takes the title role in *The Hypochondriac*
VENUE: Tonight at West Yorkshire Playhouse



■ NEW VIDEOS
Fine performances and plenty of period display in Nicholas Hytner's *The Madness of King George*

LONDON

CALAMITY JANE: Gemma Craven plays the rootin'-tootin' Calamity Jane in Stephen McLean's Wild Bill Hickok in Paul Kynaston's production of the musical of the film of the legend. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Ave, EC1 (0171-713 6000). Open night, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm; matins Wed, Sat 2.30pm. Until June 19. £12.

JULIUS CAESAR: Christopher Benjamin plays the colossus, with John Nettles and Julie Glover (Brutus and Cassius) clapping at his heels in Peter Hall's production from last year's Edinburgh Festival. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 2831). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then in rep with *The Taming of the Shrew*. £5.

OTTOMAN ART: The Brunei Gallery's first significant exhibition is an exploration of the influence exercised by the sultans over every aspect of life, from military power to religion, over 500 years in its 200 works, including calligraphy, Qur'ans, manuscripts, miniatures, ceramics, and metalwork and instruments, from the Haseki D. Khalil Collection of Islamic Art. Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, WC1 (0171-637 2389). Mon-Sat 10.30am-5pm. Until August 31.

■ BEAST IN THE MEG: Richard Kielson's award-winning play about two survivors of the 1915 Armenian massacre is set in Maharashtra. Directed by David Berman. BKC, 16 Leavelor Hill, Belgrave, SW1 (0171-223 2223). Tue-Sat 8pm; Sun 6pm. £10-12.

■ THE COMPLETE WORKS OF (ALMOST) SHAKESPEARE: The RSC's Reduced Shakespeare Company popular, witty rough-and-tumble of the Bard. Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-381 1727). Wed-Sat 8pm; Mat 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Sun 6pm. £10-12.

■ EL ENDGAME: Reviving performances by Alan Aldridge and Stephen Daldry, in Kate Mitchell's production of medieval period Beckett. Last week. Demille Theatre, 100 New Bond St, WC1 (0171-582 2222). Mon-Sat 7.30pm; matins Thurs and Sat, 2pm. In rep.

■ A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC: Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish chanteuse, Judi Dench, Patricia Hodge, Sian Phillips and Lambert Wilson starring in a production of the 1963 musical. National Theatre, Queen's Hall, WC2 (0171-928 2222). Tonight 7.30pm; matins Thurs and Sat, 2pm. In rep.

■ EL HIJUERITO: Edged from the transcripts of the Nazi War Crimes Trial Nicolas Kent's production is preceded by Responses, playlets set in Hitler, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mistry

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: Gershwin, Sondheim and Lloyd Webber are just a few of the composers whose songs Sarah Brightman, who is accompanied by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Concert Hall, Sauchiehall Street, G1 (0141-333 4134). Tonight, 8pm. £12.

LEEDS: Paul Shelley in the title role of Molikai in *The Hypochondriac*, a new Stock in the Head in Edward Kemp's new version, directed by Toby Jones. Courtyard, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Court Yard, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 2PL (0113 270 7200). Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm (except May 28, Fri, Sat, Sun, Sat 8pm; matins Sat May 25, June 1) 8pm, Jun 1 and 15, 2.30pm. Until June 15. £12.

LONDON: Michael Shaeffer in the title role of Molikai in *The Hypochondriac*, a new Stock in the Head in Edward Kemp's new version, directed by Toby Jones. Courtyard, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Court Yard, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 2PL (0113 270 7200). Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm (except May 28, Fri, Sat, Sun, Sat 8pm; matins Sat May 25, June 1) 8pm, Jun 1 and 15, 2.30pm. Until June 15. £12.

SHEFFIELD: A highlight of the Danceworks festival is a performance by Ultima Vez of *What the Body Does Not Want*, a work that explores the body as a lived continuation of ideas and music by the Belgian choreographer

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, return only
■ Some seats available
■ Seats on advance

TYNEHAM, 299 Kilburn High Road, NW8 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 6.30pm. Special matins Sat 2pm, Sun 6pm. £10-12.

■ SYLVIA: Strange, romantic comedy by AR Guney, with Robin Ellis as the wife and Zoe Wanamaker as the dog (She) finds it hard to find her place. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-493 5070). Opens May 20, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri 8pm; matins Sun 3pm, Sat 8pm and 8.30pm.

■ TAP DOGS: Dan Penn's latest of dances in working-boots returns to the Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-484 5045). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm.

■ TARTUFFE: Ian McElhinney and Tom Hollander marvellously kooky, and crazy in Jonathan Kent's top-class production of Moliere's tart comedy on religious topics.

CINEMA GUIDE

Gillian Mistry's assessment of films in London and elsewhere indicated with the symbol (♦) on release across the country

Isadora acts in a futuristic wasteland. Director: David Horovitz. MGM/UA (0171-437 4343).

♦ THE SHROUDAGE (18): Gross, grisly remakes of La Cage aux Folles, with Robin Williams and Helen Lederer as the gay couple faced with an in-law problem. Director: Mike Nichols. Columbia (0171-322 0295). Filmhouse (0171-322 0295). Fallside (0171-370 2636). Threadneedle (0171-454 0331). Osborne (0171-454 0331). Odeon (0171-454 0331). Brixton (0171-454 0331). Croydon (0171-454 0331). Ritzy (0171-254 3322). UCI Whiteley (0171-792 2222).

♦ COPICAT (18): Aggressive Squander Weaver and Holly Hunter's detective booth with a twist. Unpleasant writer: Director: Jon Amiel. Miramax (0171-454 0331). Theatres (0171-454 0331). Odeon (0171-454 0331). Odeon (0171-454 0331). Brixton (0171-454 0331). Ritzy (0171-454 0331). UCI Whiteley (0171-792 2222).

♦ EXECUTIVE DECISION (18): Shock, fury and a hacked airliner, with Kurt Russell, Julia Barry, and a consignment of nerve gas.

■ BLUE IN THE FACE (16): Stories and jokes about Brooklyn life. Indigo continues with Shirley Strickland, Mary Pearce, Director: Wayne Wang. Plaza (0171-437 6422). Richmond (0161-332 0030). Ritzy (0171-737 2121).

♦ IDIOTS (18): Unashamedly honest of kids running wild in Milwaukee. A fat waitress with short-fingered Larry Clark; the God-fearing, cross-eyed, Catholic Picture House (0171-451 4855). 3232 (0171-451 3232). Ritzy (0171-370 2636). Haymarket (0171-599 1527). Telford County (0171-370 2636). Theatrue (0171-257 2121). Screen on the Green (0171-228 3262). UCI Whiteley (0171-792 2222).

♦ MONEY TRAIN (18): Nasay areas in New York's subway system, with Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson. Director: Joseph Ruben. Miramax (0171-454 0331). Odeon (0171-454 0331). Cinema (0171-454 0331). Warner West End (0171-451 5151). Warner West End (0171-451 5151).

POUNCE MAGIC (18): Magician's assistant Sheldene finds true magic in Modern. Engaging oddity from director Clare Panton. With Russell.

■ ROUGH MAGIC (18): Magician's assistant Sheldene finds true magic in Modern. Engaging oddity from director Clare Panton. With Russell.

■ THE SECRET (18): Mystery surrounds the disappearance of a woman. Director: Alan Parker. Miramax (0171-454 0331). Odeon (0171-454 0331). Cinema (0171-454 0331). Ritzy (0171-454 0331). Brixton (0171-454 0331). Ritzy (0171-454 0331). UCI Whiteley (0171-792 2222).

■ UNFORGIVEN (18): Blood, fury and a hacked airliner, with Kurt Russell, Julia Barry, and a consignment of nerve gas.

■ THE WOMAN IN BLACK (18): Adapted by Stephen Poliakoff. "The most gripping and moving coming-of-age story" David Hare. Now in its 5th year. National Theatre, 30 Drury Lane, WC2 (0171-582 3322). Wimsey (0171-437 4343).

■ MISS SAIGON (18): The classic love story of our times, now in its 10th year. National Theatre, 30 Drury Lane, WC2 (0171-582 3322). Wimsey (0171-437 4343).

■ FAME (18): The musical "Fame - The Musical" triumphs on Broadway. Thrilling! Director: Michael Bennett. London Palladium, 202 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-582 3322). Wimsey (0171-437 4343).

■ CALAMITY JANE (18): Gemma Craven stars as the rootin'-tootin' Calamity Jane in Stephen McLean's Wild Bill Hickok in Paul Kynaston's production of the legend. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Ave, EC1 (0171-713 6000). Open night, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm; matins Wed, Sat 2.30pm. Until June 19. £12.

■ THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (18): Directed by Michael Moore. Criterion (0171-370 0444).

■ REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY (18): The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) (18): "Hilarious" (Times). Directed by Anton Chekhov. Box Office: 0171-370 0444.

■ SUNSET BOULEVARD (18): Winner of 7 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Andrew Lloyd Webber's West End hit.

■ THEATRES (18): Andrew Lloyd Webber's West End hit.

■ ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE (18): West End hit.

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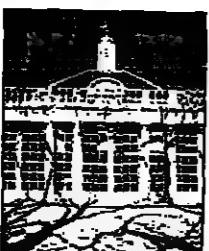
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مكتبة الأصل



VISUAL ART
Thanks to the National Lottery, it's full steam ahead for expansion at the Serpentine Gallery



THEATRE
Taking the name of honour in vain: the RSC's staging of Calderón's difficult *The Painter of Dishonour*



RADIO
Why do listeners have to work so hard when listening to BBC radio documentaries?



TOMORROW
The actor, author and gangsta rapper Ice T makes the case for musical credibility with his latest album

RADIO

Time to name names

FOUR days after last week's column appeared, containing a rebuke for critics of Paul Gambaccini, I was back at the word processor trying to explain for Tuesday's news pages why Gambaccini had been dumped by Radio 3. I am now fielding telephone calls from other BBC presenters begging me not to say a good word about them.

So I won't, for the time being. So the safest territory this week is *The Country Life* (Radio 2, Wednesday), a new series in which it is impossible to praise or criticise anyone because all of those who appear are anonymous.

Nothing daunted, I shall have a go at the producer, who is Keith Slade. He will survive me saying that this is a fascinating series, but the question is, why do listeners have to work so hard when listening to BBC radio documentaries? *The Country Life* is in four parts and this first one mainly concerned work and the effect of the seasons on it.

All the speakers are real people, but we do not learn who they are, we do not even learn when it was that they had the experience described. Unless we have studied dialects, we do not even know where most of them live.

This trend towards anonymous contributors in both radio and television is part of the obsession with "voices". The more, the better. The fewer interruptions, the better. The less narration, the better.

For example, Wednesday's first programme had what all good documentaries have: a single, startling fact that you are never likely to forget. In this case it was that a man pushing a plough was expected to cover an acre a day, and in doing so he walked 11 miles.

Eleven miles? In a day? Pushing a plough? No more flesh was to be put on this superman — we did not discover when he did it or where he did it or how often he did it. The fact that he did was thrust into our minds in a single dimension, which was at least one short of enough.

The Country Life is a highly enlightening series, but I wish I knew the names of its heroes and heroines. There, Slade can sleep soundly tonight. Oh and sorry Paul.

PETER BARNARD

London's Serpentine Gallery has big plans for its lottery handout. Simon Tait reports



How to get a quart into a pint pot: the renovations of the Serpentine Gallery will double the available space, without increasing its size one inch

The teahouse gets the cream

There is something very British about creating one of the nation's premier contemporary art galleries out of a tea pavilion in the middle of a park; and not a particularly distinguished tea pavilion, either. It has almost all the characteristics associated with tea rooms: unexpected draughts, biting cold in the winter, echoing floors, low ceilings, uncertain and changing glimmerings through skylights. Still, there are pleasant views of rolling lawns beyond the portico columns and the light is uninterrupted by any surrounding buildings.

And it is the light that has made the Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens a showcase for new work, an achievement recognised by the grant of £3 million from the Arts Lottery Fund to renovate and improve it.

The scheme will double the space in the gallery — 805 square metres becoming 1,462 without increasing its size. The architects, John Miller and Partners, have come up with a design that will create a workshop, storage space, a

large new bookshop and new entrance, more office space, new toilets and proper wheelchair access. Exhibition space will be slightly increased, and the entrance switched from the south to the north side. The lawns are to be landscaped by Hal Moggeridge to become sculpture gardens.

"It's taken us five years to get to this point," says Julia Peyton-Jones, the gallery's director. "This has given us time to consider properly what we need to do. It's meant we have become much more aware of the movement in the space and how we can make it much more flexible for both artists and audiences."

There are exceptions, but in general art looks better at the Serpentine than anywhere

else," says the writer and critic David Sylvester. "The renovations will make it better still by keeping rain and burglars out."

The Arts Council got a lease on the pavilion, which was built in 1934, in 1970, intending it to be the little sister to the Hayward Gallery, on the South Bank. The Serpentine is no longer a junior partner. Since 1991 visitors have gone from 180,000 to 368,000 last year, compared with the Hayward's 230,000.

Its recent exhibitions have been consistently newsworthy, from Helen Chadwick's provocative *Effluvia* and Rebecca Horn in 1994, to last year's Mark Wallinger, Mar Ray and *The Mavbe* of Tilda Swinton and Cornelia Parker.

to the Jean-Michel Basquiat retrospective this spring.

"There's been a change in the way the visual arts are perceived," Peyton-Jones says.

"The latest exhibition is written and talked about as much as the latest film."

An educational charity, the Serpentine has always offered free admission. But although subsidised by the Arts Council and Westminster Council, it still has to raise two-thirds of its £900,000 a year income, much of it from sponsorship.

In 1987 there was a clamorous appeal to save the gallery when the Arts Council decided to release it from direct control. The threat of closure loomed again as a result of the increasing deterioration of the building. The roof leaks, the

heating system does not work properly, increasing numbers of owners have been refusing to lend their works for exhibition, the security system is inadequate, and the wiring is potentially dangerous.

So, long before the National Lottery was anywhere near the statute book, an appeal was launched, with the Princess of Wales as patron. The annual patron-hosted gala dinners became one of the social events of the summer season and, along with *The Review and Now Exhibitions* which reviewed the art of the Serpentine's life so far, they raised £250,000, then it was clever of the Nash Ensemble (and its artistic consultant Amelia Freedman) to place it at the other end of their programme from Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*.

In Debussy's tone poem, time is suspended in the haze of the afternoon sun. The work inevitably sounded less sensuous in David Walter's chamber transcription than in the original, but there was compensation in the refined and revealingly lucid textures: a solo oboe here, a ripple of harp there, and Philippe Davies's languid flute.

As Roger Nichols's programme note for Messiaen's Quartet pointed out, he had a better chance than most to contemplate infinity during its gestation — being an inmate of a German prisoner-of-war

camp at the time. The angel "who announces the end of time" in the second movement ushers in hovering lines on violin and cello (James Clark and Christopher van Kampen), over the most delicate droplets of sound (Ian Brown on the piano). But the most remarkable technical control was shown by the clarinettist Michael Collins, with his barely audible threads of sound in "Abîme des oiseaux".

For the bright, hard sonorities of Messiaen's *Oiseaux exotiques*, Yvonne Loriod brought her unparalleled authority to bear, with Daniel Harding and the ensemble providing a suitably rhythmic backdrop. In Maurice Delage's *Quatre poèmes héroïques*, soprano Catherine Dubosc's tone could have been a touch more sultry, but her command of the idiom was admirable, both here and in Ravel's *Trois poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé*.

BARRY MILLINGTON

An honour system best left to history

THEATRE

The Painter of Dishonour
Barbican Pit



Victims of respect: Sara Mair-Thomas and John Carlisle

Not all plays by Calderón are centrally concerned with honour, but revivals of those that are present a problem. Take this one, first seen last year at Stratford, directed by Laurence Boswell, and revived here on a sprung floor — excellent for stamping heels — with sumptuous costumes and a cast that is mainly good.

The young woman who believes her love is drowned, and marries the elderly painter of the title, scrupulously ensures that she only acts in accordance with her honour. This means pretending she was not attracted to her former suitor when she was, and afterwards remaining faithful to her husband. The second is entirely proper, but the first fatally delays her happiness and is the prime cause of everything that goes wrong thereafter.

The drowned man bounces up again and proves to be an intolerable cad, quite the most unsympathetic character to have been seen at the RSC in years. He will not accept that his Serafina is now a married woman, hurls abuse at her, pursues her from Naples to Barcelona for more abuse and ends by abducting her. This exposes the painter to titters from the populace and he pursues the couple back across the Mediterranean for the inevitable revenge. The abduc-

tion happens to be his best friend's son — "Damn honour and its tyranny!" he exclaims — but when the deed is done, the dead man's dad declares that "revenge taken in honour's name cannot offend".

And this is the problem for me. Revenge I can empathise with, no sweat. But all the blather about honour's demands, and there are many more examples in this play, is the froth of a vanished society more concerned with surface than substance. The programme suggests that Calderón was urging an end to its more sinister and fatuous manifestations, but this means the experience of watching his play today is like being presented with an exhaustively detailed account of cannibalism and then being told it is a bad thing. I know that. Why tell me?

Books have been written about this play, but the translation, by Boswell and David Johnston, uses such plain and ordinary language that we

cannot be made to care for the characters by any marvellous way they say things. John Carlisle (Don Juan, the painter) makes us believe he is speaking poetry only because his voice gives a charge of thought and feeling to his lines. In a different way Sara Mair-Thomas is a convincingly passionate Serafina, for her voice trembles with the pressure of tears beneath it.

The movements throughout the play are revealing, and there is a fine air of bustle about the production, although I see that where Johnston argues for Calderón's belief that a pattern shapes our lives, Boswell goes so far as to contradict the wedding-bells end by making the bride (good playing by Sophie Heyman) stride out in silent rage.

The play gripped me in the opening act, loosened its hold in the second, and lost me in the third.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

You can all join in
YMSO / Edwards / Brabbins
Festival Hall

were able to restore it within a year. Bathed in violet light, she smoothed her way through Gershwin's *Summer-time* and Jerome Kern's *Long ago and far away*.

The stage was reset for the keyboards, saxophone, electric bass and drums of Django Bates's band, Human Chain.

"Here's a lovely old song, sung in a horrible new way!" he cried; and there was New

York, New York turned into a fierce cityscape cross-etched by rhythm and metre.

Enter Joanna MacGregor, tiny, silver and black. Her piano part was only intermittently audible in Bates's own *The Loneliness of Being Right*, a compact, devil-may-care frustration of a number.

After MacGregor's *Rhapsody in Blue*, tight teasing and idiosyncratic, and conducted with spirit by Sian Edwards, there was more avian delight. For Malcolm Arnold's *Toy Symphony*, the YMSO's string octet and pianist were joined by — among others — Garrett, hitting a triangle as if it were an anvil. Bates, subdued on a toy drum, Rafael Payne (Young Musician of the Year) on cymbals, John Harle turning a trumpet, and John Amis turning into a canary. They all joined in Strauss's *Radetzky March* and so, of course, did the audience.

HILARY FINCH

There's no need to shout

Bournemouth Sinf / Moldoveanu
Bath Forum

mouth Sinfonietta at the Bath Forum, inspiring one of the most interesting programmes in the festival. Kurt Weill, unmistakably one of Gruber's musical antecedents, was represented by a rare performance of his Second Symphony. Haydn, clearly one of Weill's symphonic models, appropriately opened the concert with the *Drumroll Symphony* (No 103 in E flat).

Mozart's Horn Concerto No 2, K477, demonstrated the accomplishment of the Sinfonietta's principal hornist,

Richard Berry. Under his assistant conductor, Nicolae Moldoveanu, the orchestral playing was generally attractive in sound and tolerably well-ordered in ensemble.

Gruber wrote *Zeitstimung* for himself to perform at the microphone. Singing, speaking, shouting, whispering, hissing a vocal line covering three octaves or more, he provoked a scarcely repressible urge to ask him to shut up so that we could hear what was going on in the orchestra. He is so brilliant in orchestration, so adept in creating tunes, and so witty in purely musical terms that the *chansonnier* in him is an unnecessary distraction.

GERALD LARNER

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Peter Ackroyd on the architect of the Book of Common Prayer

He followed the King's devices and desires

Thomas Cranmer is nobody's hero. His reputation as a trimmer to beat all trimmers is only matched by his lugubrious role as a professional wringer of hands. The surviving portraits in that sense seem to suit him; the eyes are timid but obtrusive, while the whole face remains watchful, anxious and restrained. The general opinion has come to be that he was infirm of purpose, with too quiet a conscience, and therefore more fit for a king than for his God. But, in this voluminous and detailed account, Diarmaid MacCulloch sets out to alter this enduring impression by characterising him as a conscientious and able servant whose abiding purpose was "his fierce determination to promote the evangelical reform of the Church".

It was not always so. At university he was a traditionalist in every sense, and in the early period of his life he is described by MacCulloch as "a conservative don" and apparently "a thoroughly traditional cleric". But he was more interested in a career in the world than in the university, and he first comes to notice in the historical records as a supporter of the King's decision to separate himself from Katherine of Aragon and to marry Anne Boleyn.

In fact Cranmer's sudden involvement in secular affairs seems to have gone to his head: in one of the few bold moves of his life, he disavowed his clerical celibacy in order to marry the daughter of a Nuremberg brewer. But he learnt quickly enough that rashness did not necessarily pay. Only a few months later, the King decided to promote archdeacon Cranmer to the Archbishops of Canterbury — no doubt for the sake of services still to come as for those already rendered.

So Cranmer was compelled to keep quiet about his wife (who seems somehow to have been spirited away in the corridors of one of his palaces), equivocated about the nature of papal authority, and eventually took on the pallium. A contemporary satirised him as the priest who always kept his fingers to his mouth; but although silence and stealth were his two commandments, it was clear to everyone that he was, in Diarmaid MacCulloch's words, "a tame Archbishop".

So there is no way in which MacCulloch distorts or hides any evidence relating to his subject: the biography is notably even-handed, and even uses a passage from T. S. Eliot's *Prufrock* as an epigraph — "At times, indeed, almost ridiculous." But this is a scholarly book in every sense and, although it is addressed essentially to other scholars who are already familiar with the history of the period, it will have an especial significance for those who have an interest in the wayward and confusing path of the Reformation itself.

MacCulloch's history of that giant

THOMAS CRANMER
By Diarmaid MacCulloch
Yale, £29.95



Cranmer after Henry VIII's death

transition in fact confirms that it was engineered very much in haste, "as a process of *ad hoc* reactions to situations as they arose, rather than the result of planned strategy" — to which we may add the opinion of historians like Eamon Duffy that the new religious settlement had to be imposed upon a bewildered and otherwise pious nation.

In many respects, then, it was a Reformation behind closed doors — some of them belonging to Cranmer himself.

So the Archbishop remained a great factotum, eager to serve those principalities and powers which St Paul commanded him to abjure, and in ordinary secular affairs he became, in MacCulloch's words, "an almost powerless puppet" in the hands of Henry, or Thomas Cromwell, or whoever happened to be temporarily in charge.

He always managed to save his job at times of crisis — until the very end, that is — never losing his head while others were losing theirs, but only by remaining in the shadow of that self-righteous, God-obsessed royal bully" who happened to be the reigning monarch. At the same time MacCulloch makes a perfectly cogent argument for Cranmer's seriousness as a theologian and controversialist, and there can be no doubt that he became convinced of the need to extraplate the tradition of medieval Christendom. Yet since his

preferred alternative lay in the religious authority of secular rulers, it must be said that he chose his new creed wisely in the light of events. Cranmer's "premise about the divine ordering of society through Christian princes" was not out of place in the court of Henry VIII.

The Coronation of Edward VI (or "King Josiah", as he was known by the faithful) greatly encouraged him. He was the boy's godfather, after all, and MacCulloch suggests that it was at this moment — when he finally crawled out from under the rock of Henry's presence — that Cranmer was able to fashion his ecclesiastical revolution. In a process of "ruthless thoroughness" images were smashed, festivals and rituals abolished, opponents cowed and often imprisoned. There are times when the ecclesiastical manoeuvring comes close to the more melodramatic passages of Trollope, until one remembers that the Fleet, the Marshalsea or the scaffold were often the unhappy end of the internal bickering. In every sense, the stakes were high.

For a while Cranmer succeeded, managing to defeat what MacCulloch calls the traditionalist or conservative forces, and thwarted by the unhappy accident of the young King's death. Yet there is a case for saying that the Protestant cause was in this period fatally compromised, both by its total reliance upon royal authority and by its entire lack of interest in popular belief.

This really was a textbook example of telling people what was good for them, and there have been a number of studies in recent years demonstrating the havoc brought upon the ritualised piety of the English as much as upon their statues and their prayerbooks.

On the accession of Mary, Cranmer was tried for treason, and then actually burned for heresy. It was not an unlikely or uncommon fate, and Cranmer had been playing with fire all his life. That great populist, Cobbett, remarked that "he expired at last amidst those flames which he himself had been the chief cause of kindling".

But if he was not averse to burning heretics when the need arose, it cannot be said that he displayed as much constancy in his last days as some of his victims. He recanted once or twice and then recanted his recantation, giving further credence to the suspicion that he rarely had the courage of his convictions.

Yet if he was one of nature's time-servers, who could really deny him the right to trim and prevaricate in so dangerous an age? He was only human — too human, perhaps, in his inability to see beyond immediate circumstances — in a period when only saints, heroes or fanatics seemed able to act decisively. He died gracefully, if nothing else, although one cannot help but entertain the suspicion that he was simply trying to ingratiate himself with the next ruler of his destiny.

I t's tough out there, and getting tougher. Not only does a scriptwriter have the long haul of getting work on the screen but, with any prospect of success, he has to cook up a tie-in diary of its making. All these efforts are dwarfed by the hilariously harrowing 35-year record that is *Going Mad in Hollywood*.

It opens in 1960 with David Sherwin's failure at Oxford, a disappointment to his classical-don parents but of a piece with a subsequent hell-mell life. Hopes of a movie-writing career find him filming diesel engines at sea. Sherwin is also embroiled in domestic arrangements of a repeatedly byzantine complexity. Sleep-walking, a recalcitrant Citroen, dodgy teeth, sadness at limited access to his son and sneers from a teenage daughter only exacerbate those suicidal and alcoholic impulses which have him teetering upon bankruptcy or, worse, beholden to the DHSS.

READERS who enjoy being escorted through jungles and slums guided by a master scientist will take pleasure from this panorama of the great diseases that have plagued mankind. Charles Darwin had that rare knack of combining personal reminiscence with scientific instruction: the late Lewis Thomas was a genius at doing that for medical medicine and Wills is their worthy successor.

English-born but now a professor of biology in California, Wills is a practised science populariser, with books to his credit like *The Wisdom of the Genes* (1989). His forte lies in simplifying complex technical information and presenting it in personal contexts. *Plagues* opens in a Peruvian shanty town on the banks of the Amazon, where Wills inspects the recent cholera epidemic, before proceeding to explain the disease's epidemiology and emergence. For thou-

sands of years exclusive to the Indian subcontinent, cholera then circled the globe in six terrible pandemics in the 19th century, thanks to communications revolutions. Who can miss the parallel with AIDS, probably long confined in African equatorial forests?

Wills then moves to India itself. Assailed by the stench and sewage of Madras, he goes in search of the cause of the devastating 1994 plague outbreak. He then resumes the cholera trail, but in time not in space, going back in history to 1854 when John Snow tracked an eruption of deaths in Soho to a contaminated water-pump. Snow got the parish officers to remove the handle, and the outbreak ended. Turning to typhoid allows Wills to work in the remarkable tale of his grand-



The German axe of State: illustration by Thomas Theodor Heine from the satirical magazine *Simplicissimus*, 1899

Making killing no murder

In the conversation of mankind, murder is one of the great constants. For a week or more after the Dunblane massacre, during the West and Bulger trials, the nation talked of little else. Almost everybody agreed that these murders were unique in their various kinds of depravity, and that each of them revealed unpalatable truths about our society. In fact, our reactions to these crimes would tell the historian far more about Britain than the murderers themselves. Criminal pathology shows only endless variations on themes which have changed little since Cain killed Abel; but if murder has no history, its punishment most certainly does.

Hence it is remarkable that this thousand-page history of execution in Germany is the first serious attempt to trace the evolution of a nation through its response to capital crime. Richard Evans makes no secret of his personal distaste for the death penalty, but the great strength of his book is its detail. In the aftermath of Dunblane, it is salutary to read of the case of Erno Wagner, a schoolmaster who in 1913 murdered first his wife and four children, then set fire to the houses of his

village neighbours and shot ten of them dead as they emerged. His trial revealed the same paranoid mentality that seems to have characterised Thomas Hamilton, but with a distinctively Wilhelmine German twist: Wagner was a eugenics who, for all his responsibility, thought himself a danger to the race because of his humble origins, and committed his murders partly out of a desire to prevent the lower orders from reproducing. He was saved from the axe by the new science of psychiatry, which was able to resist public opinion in an only partly democratic system.

Wagner lived to welcome the Nazis as his disciples. Hence it is remarkable that this thousand-page history of execution in Germany is the first serious attempt to trace the evolution of a nation through its response to capital crime. Richard Evans makes no secret of his personal distaste for the death penalty, but the great strength of his book is its detail. In the aftermath of Dunblane, it is salutary to read of the case of Erno Wagner, a schoolmaster who in 1913 murdered first his wife and four children, then set fire to the houses of his

soldier Vampire", whose case aroused such popular fury that the death penalty, which had been in abeyance for several years, was reintroduced for him in 1931.

Under the Third Reich, it was to be transformed into an instrument of extermination. Here again, the echoes of present-day controversies make for uncomfortable reading: Hitler himself, it appears, was a compulsive consumer of crime stories in the press; but when he came across a sentence too lenient for the "crime he did not merely fulminate: a telephone call to

Himmler was enough to ensure that the criminal would be officially executed. From 1942 onwards, judges who passed custodial sentences for the ever-lengthening list of crimes that Hitler considered capital were similarly sacked. Thus the courts became accomplices in the Nazi bloodbath, passing 16,560 death sentences in 12 years. So discredited did the

death penalty become that the postwar Federal Republic abolished it, though the Communists continued to execute criminals in East Germany until the eve of its collapse.

As a thorough, empirical historian, Evans cannot square his evidence with the overarching theories of punishment advanced by Michel Foucault, Norbert Elias and others. But he subscribes to at least one theory himself: that capital punishment sustains and is sustained by a "culture of retribution", which degrades the State and legitimises violence at all levels of society.

Germany's nemesis under the Nazis seems to support this. But there is no evidence that the abolition of capital punishment in itself ameliorates the culture of retribution, let alone reduces criminal violence. Being "soft on crime" may destabilise a modern State, which is defined by its monopoly of violence; we still think of the Weimar Republic as "decadent", because the Nazi propaganda which depicted it as such was so effective. The desire for retribution may be anavistic, but it is rarely kept in check without ritual.

Lucky to survive

Christopher Hawtree

GOING MAD IN HOLLYWOOD
By David Sherwin
André Deutsch, £17.99



Mad in Hollywood gives a continual insight into the dynamics of a partnership which saw each man at his outlandish best (with a shared taste in off-beat books).

Sherwin's eye for the quotidian bizarre is acute. It's well known that Jill Bennett left a fortune to Battersea Dogs' Home but not that this will was a teenage joke and, there

being no other, it had to stand. During the LA riots, an archbishop is interviewed on television. "What are you doing about this catastrophe, Monsignor?" "I've faxed the Pope." "And what has the Pope done?" "He's faxed me a prayer." This is only a mite surreal than the chaplain in a drawer in *If...*

Confession of his manic energy led the DHSS to deny him income support. If only such people were as enlightened as the newspaper Editor Stewart Steven (seen at *The Mail on Sunday*) who, on hearing of this, gave him a retainer of £100 a week and "El a word if you write anything". Well, here — and rather cheaper — is a record both of a time when anything seemed possible (but probably wasn't) and one when all looked hopeless (but might not be). Sherwin feared the complete diary "an out-of-control monster" but this version leaves one avid for more.

Diseases desperate grown

Roy Porter

PLAUGES
Their Origin, History and Future
By Christopher Wills
HarperCollins, £20

parents under the Raj, and then malaria elicits the medical history of an uncle in the Burma jungle during the Second World War.

In depicting the precarious relations between man, disease and environment, Wills strikes a responsible balance. He rightly emphasises that we live in a world of epidemiological dangers of our own creation — environmental blight, overpopulation, pharmaceutical myopia; diseases are unpredictable, evolution

works in mysterious ways, and modern medicine is all too often a stopgap. Band-aid affair.

Yet he avoids "killer viruses" panic. Microbes themselves, he points out, often find it hard to survive, and excess "success" — the creation of plagues — can be, from the disease's point of view, quite self-destructive. Nor is he blind to improvement where it is occurring — better food supply in modern India, for instance, is helping the war against disease.

Overall there is a fine intellectual command in Wills's evocation of the complex chains and cycles of nature, and a mature sense of the paradoxical role of man as both steward and wrecker of the micro-ecological system. Wills is to be respected for

avoiding easy answers: he has no dead-cert predictions about the likely occurrence of "hot zone" viruses.

Wills writes confidently with a gift for memorable phrases — plague fleas are visualised as "mobile hypodermic needles". Combining history, travelogue, scientific exposition, autobiography and commentary on world eco-politics, Wills provides a sure guide to the medical problems and promises of the end of the second millennium, and enlarges our grasp of the evolution of disease.

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Peter Stothard wonders why we do not know of more women poets in the ancient world, and what their absence might reveal

There are no known women novelists from ancient Greece. There are some women poets but few of them are known. There are no love duets in classical Greek theatre. As Octavio Paz writes in his essay, *The Prehistory of Love*, it is easy to comb the anthologies and find "lovers in their different moods — desire, sensual pleasure, disillusionment, jealousy, ephemeral happiness". It is hard to find the matching view of a lover's partner, "the sentiments and emotions of the Other".

For many centuries of scholarship this was not a problem. Classicists were predominantly men steeped in a Platonic philosophy that made love a solitary search for perfection, not a human relationship. Only in 1975, with the publication of Sarah Pomeroy's *Codices, Whores, Wives and Slaves*, were we led to think about how the female Other might have felt about the erotic poetry, violent tragedy and bawdy stories that swirled about her.

Since then a feminist industry has devoted itself to such issues.

THE DOUBLE FLAME
Essays on Love and Eroticism
By Octavio Paz
Harvill, £14.99
CLASSICAL WOMEN POETS
Translated by Josephine Balmer
Bloodaxe, £7.95

Why have so few words from a female point of view survived from ancient times? Were they not written? Or were they not thought worth preserving? When classical culture was at its 5th-century Athenian height, why was work by women even more than usually scarce? As for what has survived, is it any good?

For Octavio Paz, writing with the confidence of a Nobel prize-winning poet, one answer is clear:

the Athens of Plato and Pericles, politically powerful, socially conservative and self-consciously artistic, was no place for a woman who wanted to write. He argues that literature which exposed the female side of sexual relationships had to wait another 100 years for the more open, cosmopolitan and depoliticised culture of Alexandria.

To make his point he chooses a piece by Theocritus, commonly known as the father of pastoral poetry but who, in this context, is best seen as an early country-and-western star, crooning songs of love and abandonment. Theocritus does indeed show a masterly understanding of his city-girl heroine, Strateia, as her love for a smooth-bodied, smooth-talking athlete moves through fire and ice into hate. Paz might just as easily have chosen the third book of Apollonius's *Argonautica* which also blazes new trails in the



Sappho: the last of her line?

description of Medea's feelings — somewhere between sexual ecstasy and a severe headache — on first meeting the handsome hero, Jason. Both of these writers, of course, are men.

Could he have found a woman writer to make his point? Jose-

phine Balmer has recently brought together in a slim paperback the work of all the female poets of the classical world. Using this as a convenient guide, the absence of women rivals to the Athenian geniuses is clear enough. A certain Charikena is the only known woman who may have written verse in 5th-century Athens: none of it has survived. Some women's work did travel. Praxilla, who lived on the Gulf of Corinth, was paid the compliment (possibly barbed) of a parody by the Athenian high comedian Aristophanes. In place of her "scorpion" he inserts "a politician". But for later writers she became an unambiguous figure of fun "sillier than Praxilla" became a proverb.

Corinna, who lived further north in Tanagra, has left behind enough work to prove herself a skilled poet. She writes of daughters and dreams; she challenges the chariot-racing subject matter of Pindar by hymning glories closer to home, "hurrahed in our heroines". She is said to have defeated Pindar (a man of high and lengthy style) in a poetry competition; but cynics said that was only because of her good looks. In another jibe that was to become familiar to successors, Telesilla of Argos was recognised only as a "woman's writer".

By the 3rd century BC three unequivocally serious women poets were at work: Nossis at Locri in southern Italy, Erina at Rhodes and Anyte in Arcadia. Nossis proudly takes the side of prostitutes. Erina writes of the fatal move of a childhood girlfriend to a man's bed, the moment when "that thief desire stole all memory away". Anyte's epitaphs for animals not only rise far above cuteness but set a pattern for generations of male and female followers.

The author is Editor of The Times

Hurrahs for the heroines of old

Grief emerges into light

In the initial months of euphoria which followed the IRA's ceasefire there was much literary speculation in Ireland about how Northern Irish writers would reflect the new flood of optimism and, as in some political circles, much glib talk of drawing a line under the past.

Deirdre Madden's latest novel wisely asserts the need to build a better future through the painful but vital process of confronting the past, of seeking to come to terms with what was done to each of us and what was done to others in our name. One of her characters envisages a future memorial constructed in the form of a room, three of its walls covered by neat rows of names of the dead — "a place which afforded dignity to memory, where you could bring your anger, as well as your grief".

The novel focuses on the women of the Quinn family, their relationships with each other and their individual searches to find an outlet for the anger and grief which taint their lives after the sectarian murder of a husband and father. Cate, one of the daughters and a successful journalist,

David Park

ONE BY ONE IN THE DARKNESS
By Deirdre Madden
Faber, £14.99

in London, returns to the rural family home bringing a secret and shaken self-confidence; this sudden act of terror leaves her feeling like a tightrope walker teetering over an abyss. Her sister, Helen, a solicitor who has sublimated her life to an altruistic pursuit of legal aid cases is increasingly torn by self-doubt and the moral ambiguities of her work. The youngest daughter, Sally finds her life narrowed into an emotional support for her mother.

Madden, whose previous work has been rewarded with both the Rooney Prize and a Somerset Maugham Prize, constructs her story round a tale in the life of the family, interspersing it with memories of the girls' childhood which coincides with the beginning of the Troubles. At times this part of the story runs the risk of becoming a potted history of the Troubles, a bit like being or one of the new guided bus tours now visiting Belfast's best-known trouble spots. The novel's strength, however, is to be found in the sensitive understanding and portrayal of the women's grief as each struggles to construct meaning from the irreparably meaningless.

Erin, the mother, becomes obsessed with growing flowers because "it made her able to bear time, because it hooked her into the circle of the seasons, and time would otherwise have been a horrible straight line, a straight, merciless journey at speed towards death." Her daughters seek their own salves but all of them discover that there are no defences against memory.

The novel ends with no easy resolution and yet perhaps that itself speaks of hope. As the youngest daughter says, "In this society it's the people who aren't confused, it's the people who know exactly what they think and feel about things who are the most dangerous."

The city that doesn't love a wall

West Berlin was the Great Metaphor of the Cold War: outpost of democracy, oasis of freedom, beacon of hope, fuse of war. For 45 years, Berlin was a powder keg, loophole and flashpoint. And everything anyone needed to know about the Cold War could be summed up in a glance at the jagged, concrete wall that ran through the centre of the town like an ugly gash on the face of Europe. The wall divided not only the city, but the nation and the Continent.

The four victorious powers had agreed to the joint administration of Berlin well before Russian forces captured and pillaged the city in the spring of 1945. The Americans, British and French approached the postwar occupation as a transition phase leading to an overall settlement for Germany as a whole. For the Soviets, however, the juicy fruit of military victory was the subjugation and division of Germany and they weren't about to give it up.

What the Western powers thought temporary, the Kremlin made permanent, and this difference of perception and interest underlay the tensions that afflicted Berlin for almost half a century.

The Russians obstructed every effort to return Germany to normality. So the Allies proceeded unilaterally to rebuild their zones of the country. The creation of the mark, the election of a government in Bonn, and membership in the EEC and eventually NATO each brought greater prosperity and stability to West Germany.

Berlin, however, remained a frozen wartime anachronism of four-power rights and four-power garrisons. And so tenuous was the Western position there that the slightest squeeze of the Soviet hand could bring both sides to the brink of war. When the wall went up in August 1961, it came as a kind of relief for Western leaders. The Allies had expected worse — perhaps a showdown over

Raymond Seitz
THE LAST DIVISION
Berlin and the Wall
By Ann Tusa
Hodder & Stoughton, £12

John Kennedy's grasp of Berlin's complexities was incomplete ("Ich bin ein Berliner"). Kennedy's inspired declaration in front of the Wall in 1963, is properly translated "I am a doughnut"; Willy Brandt cautiously prised open Eastern channels with his Small Steps Ostpolitik; and Walter Ulbricht and Erich Honecker gave flawless performances as comperable quislings.

The real story of Berlin, however, is inevitably the story of Berliners: those stranded



At last a change in the "Berlin weather": East and West Germans demonstrate as the wall is breached at the Brandenburg Gate, December 1989

on the western side of the wall who were stoic, defiant and willing to accept any change in the "Berlin weather"; those imprisoned on the eastern side who endured impoverishment and captivity; and those thousands of refugees who escaped across the border and whose courage ultimately brought down the wall.

Tusa sweeps through the tedium of diplomatic notes and the arcanum of quadripartite administration without losing the essential drama of the plot. She writes with entertaining verve. Describing a Foreign Office official's headlong descent into slippery-slope logic, she says: "Not for Sir Anthony a slow traverse; he closed his skis and schussed straight down."

This is a fine book, though it is perhaps a chapter short. The complex political manœuvrings that ended the wartime status of Berlin in 1990, secured the unification of Germany and ended the Cold War deserve fuller treatment.

The characters then were just as intriguing and the events just as compelling. But perhaps the records are not sufficiently open yet, and for all the colour of Ann Tusa's style, her research is both meticulous and confident. Surely she is schussing into a second volume right now.

Raymond Seitz is Vice-Chairman of Lehmann Brothers International, and was American Ambassador to the United Kingdom 1991-94

An awful warmth about their hearts

Rachel Cusk

HEAT WAVE
By Penelope Lively
Viking, £16



Lively: insistent darkness

effect on the rural landscape that is the novel's setting is nicely observed, but the madness and menace of unnatural sun remain outside the viscera of Lively's narrative.

This omission would occasionally be merely deliberate. *Heat Wave* is a novel remarkable for its absence of flesh and physical sensation, for the glint of steel at its heart. The more its characters fail to sweat, the more apparent it becomes that their conflicts are embedded deep in some dark, cold shaft of misery resistant to weather.

Lively's theme is sexual jealousy and infidelity. Her formulation for it is not new, but the freight of accusation — unreconstructed, adamant — her conclusions carry is formidable. Using a group of couples Lively smuggles in a story already biscuit-dry and replete with its own stringencies. Its

This fated group shares a remote pair of adjoining cottages, where Maurice is writing a high-profile book about tourism and Pauline is editing a strange and fantastical novel about romantic love, while Teresa enacts an idyll of wifely bliss in the garden. Around them satellites gather and revolve: Maurice's editor James and his predatory girlfriend, Carol; Pauline's old friend, Hugh, who has spent most of his married life caring for his mentally unstable wife, Chris Rogers; Pauline's author, whose wife has just left him and their children, and Harry, remarried in California, threatening to visit.

Pauline, a middle-aged copy editor long since divorced from her plundering academic husband Harry, spends a summer in the country with her daughter, Teresa, her daughter's husband, Maurice, and their small son, Pauline is deeply suspicious of Maurice, a successful writer and erstwhile friend. Teresa is infatuated with him, ignorant of the long-ago betrayals through whose bitter trajectory her mother now sees the world. Maurice himself is blithe and egotistical, self-absorbed, fond of approval, the quintessential man-child.

To RELIEVE the gloom, Lively permits the cheering return of Chris Rogers's wife, but this is merely a brief flicker in a more insistent darkness, through which the novel moves unsparingly to its conclusions, these being that you can only trust your friends, and that women are better off on their own. It goes almost without saying that Penelope Lively's writing is as clear and poised as ever, but here it gives shape to something more sinister, more disturbing, more exact in its aim than even her admirers might have expected.

Win tickets for Euro 96



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THE TIMES



TOKEN 10

Novice preferred to Cup veteran

Modahl omission means ill-feeling continues to run

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Athletic Federation was accused yesterday of "spiteful" behaviour towards Diane Modahl, the former Commonwealth 800 metres champion who is suing the governing body for losses suffered during her fight against allegations of drug abuse. While Malcolm Arnold, the head coach, referred to the squad that will leave next Thursday for the European Cup in Madrid as "the biggest export of British beef this month", Modahl was left on the butcher's floor.

Kelly Holmes, the 1995 world championship bronze medal-winner, was named for the 800 metres, but surprisingly, Modahl has not been asked to stand by as cover.

Instead, Hayley Parry, a rapidly improving but inexperienced runner, has been nominated. "It is spiteful, nothing less than spiteful," Vicente Modahl, the athlete's coach and husband, said.

If not spiteful, Modahl's exclusion shows, at the very least, a callous disregard for the distress that she has been through. She was banned from her sport in 1994 after failing a drugs test, but fought a costly legal battle to win reinstatement and was cleared in March.

"We had to make up our minds based on information we had last Sunday," Arnold said, as he explained the preference for Parry, who ran 2min 03.77sec on Sunday, four days after Modahl had recorded 2min 04.10sec in the second 800 metres race of her comeback. Arnold gave rise to doubt over whether Holmes would run in the European Cup; that may depend on how she fares in her next race after a poor season's debut over 1,500 metres last weekend.



Ridgeon: ever optimistic

lamer, like Modahl, is a proven champion.

While Modahl and Parry ran their season's best times in adverse weather, Parry had close competition but Modahl won by 16 seconds. "Make no mistake, Kelly deserves the place, but, if she does not run, Diane should have been picked," Vicente Modahl said.

"I am very angry. I cannot wait to see them [the BAF] in court." The Modahls are suing for £480,000. The BAF's application for strike-out action is due to be heard on June 26.

EUROPEAN CUP TEAMS

Men: 100m: L. Christie (Thomas Valley) 100m: D. Christie (Thomas Valley) 400m: D. Christie (Thomas Valley) 800m: D. Christie (Thomas Valley) 3,000m: G. Lough (Antrim) 8,000m: K. Cullen (Chesterfield) 5,000m: A. Wynn (Preston) 10km: D. Christie (Thomas Valley) 11km: D. Christie (Thomas Valley) 400m hurdles: J. Ridgeon (Bridgwater) 400m relay: from Christie, D. Christie, P. Ridgeon, A. Cullen (Chesterfield) 4x 400m relay: from Christie, M. Richardson (Winton), T. Thomas (Newham), J. Bevan (Cardiff) 4x 1,500m relay: from Christie, M. Richardson (Winton), T. Thomas (Newham), J. Bevan (Cardiff) 4x 3,000m relay: from Christie, M. Richardson (Winton), T. Thomas (Newham), J. Bevan (Cardiff) Pole vault: N. Buckle (Crawley) Long jump: F. Hall (Bridgwater) Triple jump: J. Johnson (Brentwood) Discus: D. O'Callaghan (Aberdeen), S. Cowley (Aberdeen), F. Cowley (Aberdeen) Hammer: M. Jones (Crawley) Javelin: M. Hill (Leeds)

"I was very impressed with her [Parry] on Sunday," Arnold said. "As much as I sympathise with Diane and it just thought that was the best situation. If Diane runs 1min 59sec in Hengelo [on Monday], we are seen to be wrong, but we did not have that information on Sunday."

However, Vicente Modahl said: "If they are going on times, how can they pick Du'ain Ladejo and not Iwan Thomas?" Thomas, who is also inexperienced, has run faster than Ladejo for the 400 metres this season, but the

"This is the first storm of summer and, if the thunder of last year is repeated, Arnold may resign. The darkest cloud was the one formed by the controversy between Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, and Colin Jackson, which led to Jackson failing to defend his 110 metres hurdles world title."

"If I had to go through that all again, I would probably have to leave the sport," Arnold, who took over from Frank Dick in 1994, said.

"There were times when I thought 'I do not need this any more. When I got to the federation, athletes and coaches were embittered. I do not like turmoil. The only way for the sport to progress is through harmonious relationships."

Much of the disquiet, with the exception of Modahl, seems to have been removed, judging by the strength of the squad named for Madrid, which hosts the competition on June 1 and 2. Jackson, Linford Christie and Fred Seale, the World Cup long jump champion, who each had their arguments with the BAF last summer, are ready and willing.

Christie will be seeking a third successive 100 and 200 metres double and a seventh successive 100 metres title. Tessa Sanderson and Jonathan Ridgeon, both having retired after the 1992 World Cup, will be back in Great Britain vests for the first time since then.

Sanderson, 40, has the women's javelin place and Ridgeon, 29, the men's 400 metres hurdles spot. "Looking at Tess, I have got 11 years of my career left," Ridgeon, who has fought back from four Achilles tendon operations, said.

Britain's men look strong enough to take the trophy for the first time since 1989, even without Steve Backley, the former javelin world record-holder, whose recent Achilles tendon operation is particularly worrying with the Olympic Games so close.



Nicol, left, strives in vain to block Jansher's comfortable progress to the final in Giza

Barada rises to occasion

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN GIZA, EGYPT

CHRIS WALKER'S valiant attempt to reach the finals of both open-air tournaments on the Professional Squash Association world tour only just failed under the night skies of the Giza plateau here late on Tuesday. A two-point margin was all that separated Walker from Ahmed Barada, the world junior champion at the end of a 112-minute 13-15, 15-11, 17-14, 9-15, 15-13 semi-final of the Al Ahram International.

Walker, 28, the England captain, who will be on duty again next week leading a mixed national team in the World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, went to the final of the Mahindra Challenge on the oval of Bombay's Cricket Club of India last December, but exciting though that Indian presentation was, the Al Ahram event's extraordinary mix of national sporting achievement and joyous enthusiasm on sands that have witnessed Egyptian progress

for more than 5,000 years must rank as the most significant squash happening of the decade.

In front of 2,000 knowledgeable spectators a sprinkling of sporting and showbusiness stars among them, and in a tense atmosphere, Barada, 19, was playing at a forehand cross-court pass played astonishingly at full stretch in the top right corner, the third with a forehand overhead cut to the top left neck and the fifth with a series of powerful drop shots that left Walker groping. The left-handed Englishman had his own moments, finishing the first game 13-15 with a wonderfully athletic forehand pick-up into the deep left court and dominating the fourth game from 10-8 to 15-9, but in the end they were to no avail.

For once, Jansher Khan was upstaged. His earlier removal of Peter Nicol, 30, from Ahmed El Shazly, 30 times, Barada clinched the second game with a forehand cross-court pass played astonishingly at full stretch in the top right corner, the third with a forehand overhead cut to the top left neck and the fifth with a series of powerful drop shots that left Walker groping. The left-handed Englishman had his own moments, finishing the first game 13-15 with a wonderfully athletic forehand pick-up into the deep left court and dominating the fourth game from 10-8 to 15-9, but in the end they were to no avail.

In a match that was rarely more than three points apart and in which the appeal referee Graham Horrex, of

Gifford has faith in Irish pair to end run of ill luck

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

KRISTINA GIFFORD, one of ten riders shortlisted for the Great Britain three-day event team for Atlanta, will put aside her Olympic aspirations this weekend when she competes with two novice horses at the Windsor international horse trials.

The two-star event, the training ground for many of the sport's top horses, begins today at Windsor Great Park. Leslie Law, also shortlisted for the Olympic Games, and Pippa Funnell, the winner last year, are among the leading British riders competing.

Gifford, who had to withdraw from Badminton earlier this month when her two Olympic contenders, General Jack and Midnight Blue II, sustained minor injuries, is hoping for a change of luck this weekend. She has two rides, O'Leary and Mr Macauley. Both are Irish-bred seven-year-olds who are competing in their first three-day event. "It'll be a big test for them but they're ready for it," Gifford said.

Funnell also has two talented seven-year-olds in Marshland Ruby and Rainbow Magic. The former has had three wins this spring, most recently at Tidworth last week. Rainbow Magic has been placed at each of his five outings this spring. Funnell, who has just recovered from an attack of shingles, considers both horses to have a good chance at Windsor. "They're both very classy, natural jumpers," she said.

Law, who has had three wins on three different horses at Windsor, may be having his last outing on the thoroughbred mare, Best By Miles. He is one of the favourites in the national section.

The foreign entry is headed by Matt Ryan, from Australia, the 1994 Olympic gold medallist, and Andrew Nicholson, the winner of Burghley last year. Ryan rides Kyah Sandstone, a half-brother to his Olympic champion, Kyah Tic Tac, and Gay Faer. It is the first three-day event for both horses. Nicholson rides Highly Rated and Musical Lyric.

Rain — and judicious watering of the course — have softened Windsor's traditionally firm going. The eleven-hour acquisition of sponsorship has also boosted morale. Nordic Holdings Ltd, Martin Collins Enterprises and The Exton Stud have joined forces to support the event this year.

Somerville crews enjoy day of mixed fortunes

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THERE were the usual hiccups on the first day of Oxford University Summer rowing Eights on the Isis yesterday and some outstanding performances.

As expected, Osier-Green were in a class of their own at the top of the women's division one, finishing four lengths clear of New College, and there was much movement lower down. Somerville's downward spiral continued when they were quickly overtaken by St Catherine's, St Edmund Hall

made the quickest bump, catching University, and Wolfson, who started at the bottom, bumped St Anne's.

Somerville's second crew also lost ground to Balliol in the women's second division. In contrast, their two men's crews had the distinction of achieving overbumps.

In the men's eighth division, their second eight made up the 6½ lengths to catch Oriel VI after the two boats ahead bumped out, and the top crew firmly established itself in the fourth division by catching St Peter's II to move up three places.

Another of the lesser known colleges, Wolfson, also had a successful day. Their men's first crew emulated the feat of the women by making two bumps and both are expected to make further progress today.

Oriel returned to the top of men's division one, catching Pembroke along the Green Bank and Magdalen, New College, University and Jesus all made bumps.

Two colleges, Keble and St Hugh's, were fined £50 each for not displaying the regulatory NRA certificate on their boat, and the absence of umpires which are provided by colleges also contributed to the £400 fines imposed throughout the day.

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CHRIST CHURCH II	
WINDSOR II	
ST HUGH'S	
WORCESTER	
ST JOHN'S	
ST GEORGE'S	
ST PETER'S II	
ST CATHERINE'S II	
HERTFORD	
JESUS	
UNIVERSITY II	
KEBLE	
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Somerville
crews
enjoy day
of mixed
fortunes

THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 23 1996

RACING 43

Stereo Dancer's Serbian link sets puzzle as 34 remain in Derby

War horse awaits Epsom call to arms

By RICHARD EVANS

RACING CORRESPONDENT

MYSTERY yesterday surrounded the whereabouts of a horse left in the Derby who is believed to be in war-ravaged Serbia. Stereo Dancer, one of 34 entries remaining in the Epsom classic at yesterday's forfeit stage, was entered for the race as a yearling in 1994 when he was owned by Hamdan Al-Maktoum.

However, the Ed Dunlop-trained colt went to the sales last winter after finishing last in his only racecourse appearance and was sold to M. Ivanovic of Serbia. The

Michael Stoute, the Newmarket trainer, yesterday announced that Dr Massini is back in full training for the Vodafone Derby at Epsom on June 8. "Dr Massini has resumed his Derby preparation," Stoute said.

three-year-old son of Groom Dancer was not taken out of the Derby at the first forfeit stage on March 5 — costing his owner £750 — and the failure to remove the horse from the race yesterday will cost a further £750.

Andrew Cooper, clerk of the course at Epsom, said yesterday: "Whether that money has been obtained or ever will be obtained is very much in doubt. We have no idea as to the whereabouts of the horse. All we know he could be pulling a cart somewhere in deepest Serbia."

"We would be very surprised if he is confirmed a runner at the five-day stage on June 3. Until now owners or trainers have not had to do



Whitewater Affair makes her stamina tell with an impressive victory in the Tripleprint Lupe Stakes at a rain-sodden Goodwood yesterday

anything that they wanted to leave a horse in the race. But in Derby week they have to make a positive action by confirming an entry and paying a further £1,750."

The doubt surrounding the participation of Stereo Dancer has not stopped bookmakers pricing him up in their ante-post lists. William Hill offer 60-1 — apparently against him winning, not just turning up.

There were no shock withdrawals from the Derby yesterday, although among those taken out were Mons, Sacho and Silver Dome, who attracted ante-post support during the winter and spring. Four supplemented at a cost of £3,000 in March — Tagula, Spinning World, Bonarelli and Beauchamp King — were also scratched.

The field for the £850,000

Nap SHARP REBUFF (3.10 Goodwood)
Next best: Rocky Oasis (4.45 Goodwood)

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Nap SHARP REBUFF (3.10 Goodwood)
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race looks certain to be below the maximum of 30 — which will enable Alex Greaves to become the first woman to ride in the Derby. She has been booked to partner the 500-1 outsider, Portuguese Lil.

Michael Stoute is letting his horses do the talking as he recovers from a minor knee operation. Whitewater Affair overcame some of the worst weather seen at Goodwood for years to land the Tripleprint Lupe Stakes in convincing style from Shermozzle.

It will come as no surprise to

learn that the winner of the final classic trial is not entered for the Oaks. She could be supplemented but is more likely to go for the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Given the conditions at Goodwood, with the ground soon changing to soft, it would be rash to read too much into individual performances, but Faraway Waters beat only one home in the Lupe Stakes, having finished runner-up at Newmarket to Pricket, the short-priced Oaks favourite.

Everyone, with the possible exception of the bookmakers, loves to see a successful gambler and Mark Tompkins was almost singing in the rain after watching Poetry and the spoils in the opening Metseria Paperboard Maiden Fillies' Stakes, having been backed from 20-1 to 12-1.

"That was not totally unexpected," he said. "She's improving and has been leading our best fillies at home. Fortunately, the work watchers don't know where I take my horses — or they are not getting up in the mornings."

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

2.25 Questiona, 2.55 Fonzy, 3.25 Spartan Heartbeat, 3.35 Bravemate, 4.25 Winston, 5.00 Poirot. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 QUESTIONA (nap), 3.25 Sadler's Realm.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

DRAW: 5F-8F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.25 TYNEMOUTH MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O; £3,725; 1m 2f 32yds) (14 runners)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679</th

India's manager hopes to turn short contract into three-year tenure

Patil cast to fill inspirational role

By SIMON WILDE

THESE are tough times for cricket's national managers. Since eight of the nine Test-playing teams committed the unforgivable sin of not winning the World Cup two months ago, five of them — Wes Hall, Ajit Wadekar, Raymond Illingworth, Bob Simpson and Intikhab Alam — have hung up their tracksuits.

Two new ones will be on show at the Oval today. They belong to David Lloyd, of England, and Sandeep Patil, of India. For Lloyd (who prefers the title of coach), it is his first match in charge; for Patil, his third. His first mission, a one-day tournament in Singapore — ended with his side third out of three.

That does not greatly worry him. Patil is too polite to say so, but his playing days taught him what it is like to be branded a scapegoat. He accepts that he is in a precious profession and is ready for whatever fate delivers. "Let's live for the moment," he says, which has always been his motto.

As a player, Patil was one of the most flamboyant batsmen of his day and accomplished two of the most impressive feats in the history of Test cricket. He hit six fours in an over from Bob Willis when Willis was near his prime and scored 174 against Lillee, Hogg and Pascoe — when all were in their prime — only days after being put in hospital by a bouncer from Pascoe.

Patil also did some pretty wild things off the field, though the only one he will discuss is his lead role in a Hindu film. Indian players are often treated like movie stars in their own country; Patil actually became one — at least, for one film. It was an all-action adventure called *Once You Were Unknown*.

Two years later, Patil's playing career lived out the unhappy sequel, *Unknown Again*. In 1984 India lost a Test match to



Lloyd, left, and Patil, in conversation at the Oval yesterday, are charged with reviving the fortunes of their national teams

England in Delhi and Patil and Kapil Dev were dropped for their irresponsible dismissals. Kapil, being Kapil, was recalled after one match; Patil, being Patil, never was. At the age of 28, his international career was over — by some estimations, five years before he should have been.

Like Lloyd, Patil is young enough to be capable of forging close links with his players. Wadekar was like a father to them; Patil wants to be an

elder brother. As he was playing club cricket in India with several of them until recently, he has not had any trouble gaining their respect.

"My ambition for the team is to play consistently good cricket," he said. "Too often we have played well one day and badly the next. We may not win the time but I want us to carry that attitude with us always. Everyone agreed that our match with Australia during the World Cup was a very

good game of cricket, even though we lost it."

"I understand that it is sometimes difficult for the players. Their places are at stake and so is a lot of money. It is my job to encourage them, not discourage them. I can easily drop a player and easily discipline one but, if I do so too often, the failure will be mine, not theirs."

If Patil's intention is that India should play the game in the right spirit, he has every

reason for believing so after their disgraceful exit from the World Cup. They were comfortably losing their semi-final to Sri Lanka when the Calcutta crowd rioted, causing the match to be abandoned. "We like to call ourselves sportsmen in India," Patil said, "but we have actually got to mean it."

These are fine words, well said, but living up to them will be another matter. India have a tough year ahead.

Leaders will provide champions with test of character

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

Britain coach resigns before Olympics

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ONLY A team that has set remarkably high standards could have its championship credentials questioned after a single defeat. This is the position in which Warwickshire find themselves, after a loss to Hampshire on Monday, and there will be more than the usual interest in the visit of Leicestershire to Edgbaston today.

Leicestershire lead the table and, once more, are confounding those who dismiss their unfashionable squad as also-rans. They are unchanged today, and likely to provide a serious examination of Warwickshire, who were uncharacteristically lifeless in losing to Hampshire.

That charge cannot be levelled at the captain, Dermot Reeve, who employed such dubious tactics in trying to stave off defeat that he could face disciplinary action.

Reeve persistently threw his bat away while playing Raji Maru's left-arm spin with his pads and it now seems certain that the Test and County Cricket Board will ask the umpires for their view.

Reeve can at least call on some more experienced assistance today. His vice-captain, Tim Munton, is still absent

DAVID WHITAKER, the coach of the Great Britain men's hockey team, resigned from his post with immediate effect yesterday, citing business reasons. He had been expected to coach the team through to the Olympic Games, which start in Atlanta in two months' time.

Whitaker, a management consultant in a multinational company, was appointed to the part-time post of head coach of the British team in 1993. His resignation will come as a serious blow to the team, whose fortunes will now be guided by the two assistants, Jon Copp and James Duthie, who, though competent coaches themselves, are short of international experience in this capacity. Whitaker coached the Great Britain team to its bronze medal at Los Angeles in 1984 and its gold medal in Seoul in 1988.

The British team, which started a training camp at Bisham Abbey yesterday, was informed of Whitaker's resignation the night before. Richard Dodds, chairman of the Great Britain men's Olympic hockey committee, who made the announcement, said that he was not entirely surprised because, after the Olympic



Whitaker: stepping down

TABLE

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Leics (7) ... 3 2 0 1 10 9 24
Yorkshire (8) ... 3 2 0 1 11 7 53
Essex (5) ... 3 2 0 2 9 8 52
Sussex (9) ... 3 2 0 2 9 12 43
Derbyshire (14) ... 3 1 1 1 12 5 55
Glamorgan (18) ... 3 2 0 2 13 3 50
Hampshire (13) ... 3 2 0 1 6 5 29
Warwickshire (1) ... 2 2 1 1 0 4 28
Middlesex (2) ... 2 2 1 1 0 1 28
Notts (11) ... 3 2 0 1 2 7 15 24
Nottinghamshire (4) ... 3 2 0 2 1 6 20
Surrey (12) ... 3 2 0 2 1 3 12 18
Durham (17) ... 3 2 0 1 7 6 16
Northants (3) ... 2 2 0 1 1 3 10
Sussex (15) ... 2 2 0 1 4 3 17
Worcesters (1) ... 2 2 0 1 0 7
(Last season's positions in brackets)

and much missed, but Andy Moles and Gladstone Small are set to return. When fit, Small adds an accomplished air to the Warwickshire attack that they may well need today.

Not the least noteworthy aspect of Hampshire's win on Monday was that it came with Maru as third-choice captain. He will only continue in the role against Durham at Portsmouth today if John Stephenson fails a fitness test on his injured hand. Shaun Udal returns for Hampshire but Robin Smith misses the game with a broken finger.

A similar injury keeps Richard Hardon out of Somerset's game with Northamptonshire at Taunton. Hardon was one of the casualties of a furious spell of fast bowling by Courtney Walsh at Bristol on Monday. Another was Peter Bowler, who has 17 stitches in a facial wound and will also sit out the match today.

Gloucestershire have begun encouragingly in the championship, beating Middlesex and coming within a single wicket of victory over Somerset. Surrey take them on at Gloucester while missing four players on England duty. Rob Cundiff is out of the home team, however, and a trialist, Nick Trainer, will open the batting.

Secondly, within my business life, we have experienced very rapid growth during the last nine months and this is putting increasing demands upon all concerned. My future lies with the business and I therefore have a major responsibility to give care and attention to it."

The British team, which will continue to be managed by David Whittle, is due to play Germany, the Olympic champions, at Milton Keynes on Sunday.

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A large photograph of a cricket player in action is shown on the cover.

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TCCB

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME									
Pts Team (Player's name) ...	Pts	24 Slov The Limit CC (J Wilson) ...	4246	52 Eatons Goats (J Eaton) ...	4168	76 Teatons C's (J Hunt) ...	4112		
1 The Bunnies (S Warner) ...	4433	25 North Finders A (P Stewart) ...	4244	53 Davies Demonds (D Tatlock) ...	4167	77 Duncan Idaho D (G Still) ...	4107		
2 The May Absent (O Taito) ...	3887	26 Londoners (M Johnson) ...	4243	54 Old Cleton 2nd XI (A Fisher) ...	4161	78 Glastonbury (J Lubach) ...	4104		
3 Oldsmar 4th XI (R Smith) ...	4322	27 Lancashire XI (P Stewart) ...	4243	55 Jones Boys (T Jones) ...	4157	79 Los (L Studd) ...	4104		
4 Breakfast Boys U (Cudmore) ...	4308	28 Caru's Cricket Club (Candy) ...	4229	56 Jones Boys 2 (M Jones) ...	4157	80 Maru (R Smith) ...	4104		
5 Con Ash Keniors (N Eason) ...	4303	29 Linda Losers (L Tett) ...	4229	57 Virtual Reality (T J Hallinan) ...	4156	81 M Whately ...	4101		
6 Opponents 1st XI (P Stewart) ...	4227	30 Eatons Goat 3 (J Eaton) ...	4227	58 Dingos Goats 2 (J Eaton) ...	4155	82 Tali's Tally (J Smith) ...	4100		
7 Kalmashers (D Harvey) ...	4220	31 The Bodenists (C Taylor) ...	4213	59 Opponents 3rd XI (Stewart) ...	4145	83 Tali's Tally 2 (J Smith) ...	4099		
8 4th XI (D Harvey) ...	4198	32 The Bodenists 2 (C Taylor) ...	4213	60 Eatons Goat 4 (J Eaton) ...	4145	84 Hogan End CC (M Morgan) ...	4098		
9 4th XI (D Harvey) ...	4191	33 Webbles Wallers (M Howson) ...	4208	61 Gavint Vapors 3 (D Redhead) ...	4137	85 Tali's Tally 3 (T Doyle) ...	4094		
10 Jones Boys XI (M Jones) ...	4191	34 Nine Side XI (J Davison) ...	4205	62 Dooppy Mid On (M Wedd) ...	4136	86 Cocked Heads (C Woodward) ...	4093		
11 ... (D Agar) ...	4195	35 The Wagging Tail (Jabber) ...	4204	63 Oddly 5 (M Long) ...	4135	87 Caught Dead (H Paul) ...	4093		
12 ... (M Bowes) ...	4195	36 Badges XI (P Hussain) ...	4201	64 Singin' In The Rain (H Paul) ...	4132	88 Chesseay 4 (M Long) ...	4091		
13 Odyssey Three (M Long) ...	4195	37 Oh Jersey 5 (M Long) ...	4201	65 Old Scuttsage XI (P Dore) ...	4127	89 The Bunnies 1 (B Watson) ...	4091		
14 Bert's Allops On (B Howes) ...	4195	38 Happy Valley 2 (F Wallace) ...	4201	66 Hunt 4 (£10,000 H J Hunt) ...	4127	90 The Bunnies 2 (B Watson) ...	4090		
15 Law Of Australis (H Paul) ...	4195	39 Bowled Marilyn (F Wallace) ...	4201	67 Leo's Winner (D Williams) ...	4127	91 Our Doubtless XI (J Ewart) ...	4088		
16 Aspiratus Twins (Barry) ...	4195	40 Albatross 2 (A Hobbs) ...	4199	68 New York Dogs (Raw) ...	4128	92 Alonso Acer (J Lansley) ...	4087		
17 ... (A) ...	4195	41 Albatross 3 (A Hobbs) ...	4199	69 Hunt 10,000 H J Hunt ...	4128	93 Adify 1 (M Long) ...	4087		
18 ... (A) ...	4195	42 Formula 5 (M Lovell) ...	4194	70 Maru (R Smith) ...	4128	94 Maru (R Smith) ...	4084		
19 ... (A) ...	4195	43 Fatig Sloggers (J Jackson) ...	4192	71 Nutkin CC (M Hawkins) ...	4117	95 We Wanted Botham (A Holden) ...	4082		
20 ... (A) ...	4195	44 Fats Stoggers (J Jackson) ...	4192	72 George C W XI (B Warmingham) ...	4117	96 ...	4080		
21 ... (A) ...	4195	45 Stumped For A Name (A Youngman) ...	4197	73 Mighty Bass (D Tambo) ...	4117	97 Mighty Bass (D Tambo) ...	4079		
22 ... (A) ...	4195	46 Wednesdaynights (A Hobbs) ...	4197	74 Hedgehog Sandies (T Molloy) ...	4114	98 Amphistomia Kids (M Ewart) ...	4079		
23 ... (A) ...	4195	47 The Cray Patches (C Grant) ...	4197	75 ...	4114	99 ...	4079		

The transfer line will open at 8am each Thursday and will close on the following Wednesday. All transfers made during this period will be applied to team selectors' teams. Transfers made from today until 5pm next Wednesday will be applied to teams for the beginning of the match on Thursday May 30. Transfers may only be made by telephone by calling 0891 866 964.



A team selector may transfer up to two players in his/her team per transfer period. Whether you are transferring one or two players, your team must be rendered correct one wicketkeeper and four bowlers and including one (but no more than one) rising star by the end of the call.

You may check your team score and position in ITC each week by calling the ITC Check Line on 0891 774 779

D M Coates (208) ...

D M Cox (207) ...

R P Davis (309) ...

J A Doherty (201) ...

D R Doherty (311) ...

R R Doherty (312) ...

M Diamond (313

Sporting dreams turned into virtual reality

Sporting dreams often used to begin with nothing more sophisticated than a tin can. Children would fuel their fantasies by kicking cans when they could not get a ball. With a can at their feet, they were a Matthews or a Finney, playing for their country, dreaming dreams, on their way to glory.

Today, children do things differently. They like their sporting dreams to begin on computer screens, and their fantasies to be animated and digitalised. The modern merchants of the tin can know just what the youngsters like — and give it to them. So today, little more than a javelin throw from the almost-finished Olympic stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, there opens a fantasy land designed to spark a whole new generation of sporting dreamers.

Here, at the touch of a few buttons, they claim, you can experience instantly what it is like to be an Olympic competitor. Forget the years of painful training, forget those nerve-racking national trials — you simply need to leap into the world of virtual reality. This being Atlanta, the 12-acre sporting theme park is grandly styled "Coca-Cola Olympic City" and participants are promised that they will experience instantly what it

is like to be an Olympic champion for a day.

The idea of getting a taste of the Olympics through virtual reality is a fascinating one. The fantasy starts at the gate. As you pass through the entrance to Olympic City, you are greeted by a mock-up of a vast stand full of spectators, with sound effects of cheering and shouting to convince you that you are stepping into the Olympic stadium itself.

Once inside, you can try your skill, speed and strength over Olympic

sports ranging from the traditional, such as gymnastics, to the latest, such as baseball. If you want to chance your legs at sprinting, you are taken to real starting blocks and talked

through the technique of the crouch start by the Olympic sprinter, Jackie Joyner-Kersee, who lines up life-sized on a giant video screen beside you.

At the gun, however quickly you explode from the blocks, you glimpse from the corner of your eye Joyner-Kersee romping away from you. After just ten metres, through the magic of an electronic beam, the computerised scoreboard will tell you "time" for 100 metres, and how you would have been humbled by the Olympic sprinter.

If you are a slow starter (as is,



'Forget all the years of training'

incidentally, multi gold medal-winner Carl Lewis), you might prefer to test your athletic potential on a gymnastics beam. Leotard-clad Shannon Miller, a United States gymnast, makes it look simple as you step out on to a real beam. If you glance down (not recommended), you will be unnerved by the illusion that you are balancing many yards above a gymnasium floor. But this is virtual reality land and, if you topple, you find it is only inches.

This interactive technology is still in its infancy, but it does give tantalising glimpses of how it might be used by the serious sportsman of the future. For instance, in Olympic City you can sit astride a mountain bike and simulate a treacherous, twisting Olympic-style descent. The trail unwinds on a massive screen as you pedal, the shouts of the crowd

and fellow competitors fill your head, and the bike beneath you bucks and turns as it follows the track.

For a competitor in a real event, such race rehearsal could work wonders. With the aid of technology, you could ride a simulated course endlessly, until you were perfectly at home on every bump and bend.

Being in the United States, much space is reserved in Coca-Cola's Olympic dreamland for interactive games of basketball and baseball. You can play one-to-one against the

champion whose sporting ambition was sparked and fanned by the gadgets, the screens, the computers and the hype. But we may have to wait until 2008 to see if it has worked.

In the meantime, there are a couple

of things that any would-be champion, his ambition whetted by virtual victories, might do well to remember.

In the real world, there are years of

effort that come before stepping on to the rostrum to collect those gold medals. They cannot be had instantly by beating your opponent on screen.

And, across the road from Olympic City, it will not just be the flesh-and-blood competitors that make things different for the real athletes.

In the virtual reality pavilions there is air-conditioning, cool mist spray machines and climate control that keeps the world at a comfortable 72F.

At the opening of the Olympic stadium last Saturday, Jonathan Edwards, the triple jump world record-holder from Britain, was forced to a halt because of cramp and dehydration. The temperature at the trackside was said to have reached 112F. In Atlanta, in the real Olympic Games, that for the competitors is the brutal reality.

JOHN BRYANT

Britain failing to take the lead as Olympics head towards the ballroom

Dancing around a question of sport

Ruth Gledhill follows steps being taken to redefine a typical tearoom diversion

by generous sponsorship. Competitions, including some in this country, are televised about every two weeks by Eurosport, the Paris-based satellite channel.

In Britain, by contrast, the image of ballroom dancing remains one of a faintly-humorous tearoom activity indulged in by those in their fading years.

Although dancewear companies such as ChrisAnne and Supadance are generous in the sponsorship of couples and

champion who will chair the evening board of 11 judges in Blackpool this week, said: "There is no question that dancing has art in it. But the amount of hours that goes into practising and training makes it a sport as well."

"At the British, couples start dancing at 2pm and do seven rounds over the next 12 hours. It is like running a 100-metre race seven times. The whole hall screams its head off for their favourite couple. They lose pounds in sweat as they dance, and most work out daily in a gym to achieve the high levels of fitness they need." As a judge, he will assess style, movement and music. Years on the floor have given him the ability to assess in an instant a clean "topline", the alignment of a couple's arms, head and shoulders, together with the quality of their footwork.

Complaints that dancing is not suitable for the Olympics have been made by purists who believe no sport should be acknowledged as such unless a victory is clearly quantifiable by distance, speed or height.

Diving, however, which is not contested on that basis, is one of the oldest Olympic sports. Synchronised swimming, dressage, ice skating and rhythmic and artistic gymnastics are all accepted at the Games, the latter including floor exercises performed to music.

Gill McKenzie, the championship organiser since 1981, said the competitors' training programmes would match that of anyone in any other sport. "Anyone who came to Blackpool to see the British would realise instantly that competitive dancing in England is indeed a sport and could not be regarded as merely a hobby or leisure interest," she said.

Ken Bateman, a former champion with his wife, Massimo Blanche Ingle, and now a leading judge, believes there can be no question over whether dance is a sport or an art. "It is physical, but it also has grace and beauty. People see the pretty dresses floating round the floor, but they don't see the concentration or the muscles working underneath the finery."

No matter how hard their rivals work, the Hiltons should prevail: the closest contest should be that for the runners-up position.

The titles and placings in the professional Latin and the amateur modern and Latin could, however, be more openly contested and, after three years run when the amateur modern title was in British

hands, it could this year go to a non-British couple, Massimo Georgiani and Alessia Mafredini, from Italy.

Should they succeed in defeating the favourites, Christopher Hawking and Hazel Newberry, from London, the erosion of Britain's dominance would be further underlined.

The competition starts tomorrow with the senior modern championships, for couples aged over 35, where Britain's Chris and Ann Freeman are expected to be among the leading six couples.

Mckenzie predicted some intense battles. "In the professional Latin, there have been some split partnerships resulting in exciting new couples," she said. "There will be a terrific battle to get into the final because there are some really good couples."



Marcus and Karen Hilton are hoping to win their fifth British Open professional title

'They lose pounds in sweat as they dance'

events financial backing from outside the dance world is almost impossible to obtain.

As the funding and recognition given to dancing in other countries increases in proportion to its decline in Britain — the BBC has abandoned coverage of the United Kingdom championships this year — dancers fear that the British conviction that ballroom dancing has no right to call itself a sport could soon cost this country a host of Olympic medals.

Bill Irvine, a former world

champion who will chair the evening board of 11 judges in Blackpool this week, said: "There is no question that dancing has art in it. But the amount of hours that goes into practising and training makes it a sport as well."

"At the British, couples start dancing at 2pm and do seven rounds over the next 12 hours. It is like running a 100-metre race seven times. The whole hall screams its head off for their favourite couple. They lose pounds in sweat as they dance, and most work out daily in a gym to achieve the high levels of fitness they need." As a judge, he will assess style, movement and music. Years on the floor have given him the ability to assess in an instant a clean "topline", the alignment of a couple's arms, head and shoulders, together with the quality of their footwork.

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TEST DRIVE YOUR BRAIN



WALK [] NEXT
ZERO [] CALF
EVEN [] ADDS
KNIT [] INTO
CLAD [] FLEE
KERB [] YELP
GERM [] ROAD

On each line place a letter in the space which, when substituted for the first letter of the word either side, will form another word in each case. The seven letters used will give another word reading downwards. What is it?

'Get the answer right and we will send you a Mensa Challenge Certificate'

The answer is _____ TIME 23/7
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Cut the coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test.
Post to: Mensa, FREEPOST, Wolverhampton, WV2 1BR
Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

Mensa

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 42

DEMOGORON

(a) A terrible deity, whose very name was capable of producing the most horrible effects. He is first mentioned by the vitriolic fourth-century Christian polemicist, Lactantius, who in so doing broke with the superstition that the very reference to Demogorgon by name brought death and disaster. "Must I call your master to my aid? At whose dread name the trembling falls?" MILTON: "Hell stands abashed, and earth's foundations shudder." MILTON: "The dread name of Demogorgon."

MANTICOBE

(e) A fabulous beast usually given as having the head of a man, the body of a lion, a porcupine's quills and the tail of a scorpion.

From the Persian *mardkhara* a man-eater. It is mentioned by Ctesias, a Greek living in the late fifth and early fourth centuries BC who wrote a history of Persia. It features in medieval bestiaries and also in heraldry, where it generally has horns and the tail and feet of a dragon. Martinus Polonus says that it was "the most noxious animal that ever infested the earth".

BUBASTIS

(c) The ancient capital of Lower Egypt, named after Bast, the local cat-headed goddess. The Greeks identified her with Artemis and the cat was sacred to her.

TARA

(d) The hill of Tara, County Meath, 20 miles north of Dublin, was the ancient seat of the High Kings of Ireland until the sixth century AD. Only a series of earthworks now remains to mark the site of Tara's halls. Here were held a national assembly, the *Fest of Tara*, and gatherings for music, games and literary contests. Here too was the Lia-Fail, or Coronation Stone, which is supposed to have been Jacob's pillow taken from Tara to Scotland.

BUDDHUS

(f) The name of the Buddha, the historical Siddhartha Gautama, who founded Buddhism.

SHAMAN

(g) A shaman is a spiritual leader, healer or medicine man.

SOUL

(h) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(i) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(j) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(k) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(l) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(m) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

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(n) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

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(o) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

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(p) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

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(q) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

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(r) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

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(s) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

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(t) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

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(u) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(v) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(w) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(x) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(y) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(z) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(aa) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(bb) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

SOUL

(cc) The soul is the life principle in man and animals.

MODAHL LEFT ON
SIDELINES FOR
EUROPEAN CUP

SPORT

THURSDAY MAY 23 1996

Publication of Illingworth's book overshadows Texaco Trophy

England start under cloud of controversy

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

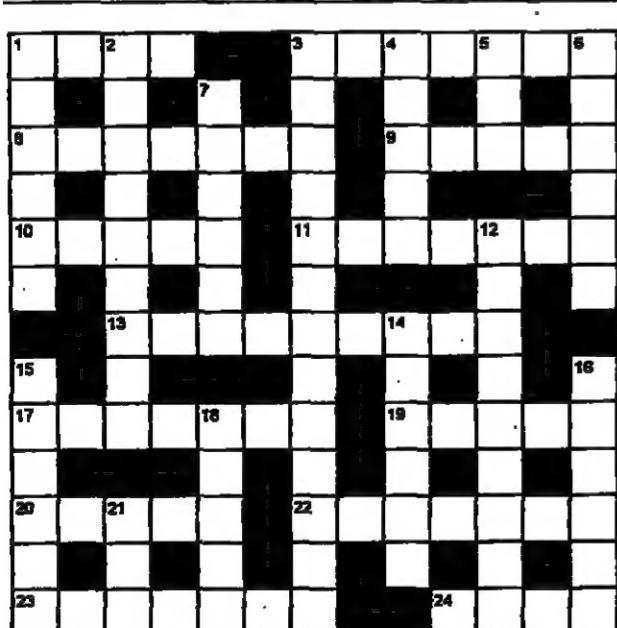
TIMING is a virtue that at present seems beyond English cricket and yesterday, by a sorry combination of the sun refusing to shine and Raymond Illingworth refusing to keep quiet, the launch of an international season in which wounds need healing and hope needs refreshing stood at risk of sabotage.

The brooding clouds that hung low over the Oval all day were symbolic of deeper, more divisive issues than the simple climatic threat to the opening Texaco Trophy international against India today. The issues involve Illingworth and the ill-timed serialisation of a book that ought not to have been published while he is chairman of the England selectors.

Such is the nature of the book, breaching the acknowledged confidentiality of selection debates and specifically criticising individuals in the England team, that he may not remain as chairman very much longer. Illingworth is a proud man as well as a stubborn one and any attempt to censure him a possibility the disciplinary committee of the Test and County Cricket Board is now investigating, could provoke premature resignation.

This is something that would severely embarrass his employers, which may be one persuasive reason for them to do nothing about it. But there is plainly a case to answer.

WILLES CROSSWORD
No 789 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS**
- Pay attention (to) (4)
 - Live together (7)
 - Hedge-shaping (7)
 - Corporation head (5)
 - Collector's item (5)
 - Collected edition; transport (7)
 - Office lunch-room (9)
 - Become worse (after improving) (7)
 - A nice drink of tea (5)
 - Parish priest (5)
 - Fabled Greek singer, lyrist (7)
 - Med. country, has cedars (7)
 - Try; listen to (4)
- DOWN**
- Using advanced electronics (2-4)
 - Based on practice not theory (9)
 - Strongly desire the unobtainable (3,3,4)
 - Tarzan type (2-3)
 - Tree coastal feature (3)
 - Push forcefully (6)
 - Bribe; investment return (3-7)
 - Insult religion (9)
 - Cooking instructions (6)
 - Fawn apologetically (6)
 - Mooring cable (6)
 - Surname of Evita (5)
 - A nut; a horse; a loaf (3)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.
All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 788
ACROSS: 2 In the red 6 Prison 8 At last 9 Bulldog 10 Astral 12 Holman Hunt 16 Draw a blank 18 Korea 20 Scratch 21 Malice 22 Onion 23 Yodeler
DOWN: 1 Croton 2 Insomnia 3 Hit man 4 React 5 Dordor 7 Self-made 11 Stalwart 13 Up-anchor 14 Knock-on 15 Slimpy 17 Rascal 19 Riled



MARC ASPLAND

Brown was in confident mood as he prepared for his England debut yesterday

purged over the next four days.

Interest will centre upon the debut of Alistair Brown as Atherton's opening partner and of either Rohit Sharma or Mark Ealham—just possibly, both—as all-rounders. And there will be great curiosity over the altered pattern of one-day batting, the split, as Atherton says, into "a three-phase innings—the whop at the start, the solid, quick-running bit in the middle, on keeping wickets intact for another whop at the end".

In pursuit of this England will have a fluid batting order, with Neil Smith padded up to come in if Brown falls early.

The final make-up of the side, however, has to wait until the pitch emerges from under the covers. It would be a great shame if the need for them has compromised the usual, ideal Oval surface for one-day cricket, although England stand to benefit more than India from any help on offer to the seam bowlers.

The Indians have not bowled well on tour so far, a point that was evidently stressed to them forcibly on Tuesday evening by their manager, Sandeep Patil. "I lost my temper for the first time last night," Patil said yesterday. "The players were quite shocked but they now know I am going to be tough on them in future. We have not bowled or fielded very well and we have to put that right."

Mohammad Azharuddin, the India captain, is fit to play despite bruised fingers, but he looked out at the London weather with doleful eyes. "We have not had a warm day since we arrived," he said. Above his head, the Texaco posters blazed their catchphrase for the series: "The heat is on." Yesterday, it applied only to the England chairman of selectors.

Patil's stage, page 45
ITC standings, page 45

England cash in dividend from Neville brothers' family business

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
IN PEKING

THE Neville brothers, Gary and Phil, viewed the Great Wall of China yesterday. Tonight, they will add a brick of their own to history in the Workers' Stadium in Peking by becoming only the second set of brothers to represent England this century. If they go on to become as famous as Jack and Bobby Charlton, England's first international against China A will be remembered as a red letter day in more ways than one.

"It was an unforgettable moment when I was told I was in the side," Phil Neville, at 19 two years the younger of the pair, said. "Hopefully, it will be the start of a long road for both us." Gary added. The last time the two played together other than for their club, Manchester United, was for Boundary Park Under-16s, the side that also produced David Platt. In the final weeks of United's run to the Double, Phil has been keeping his brother out of the side.

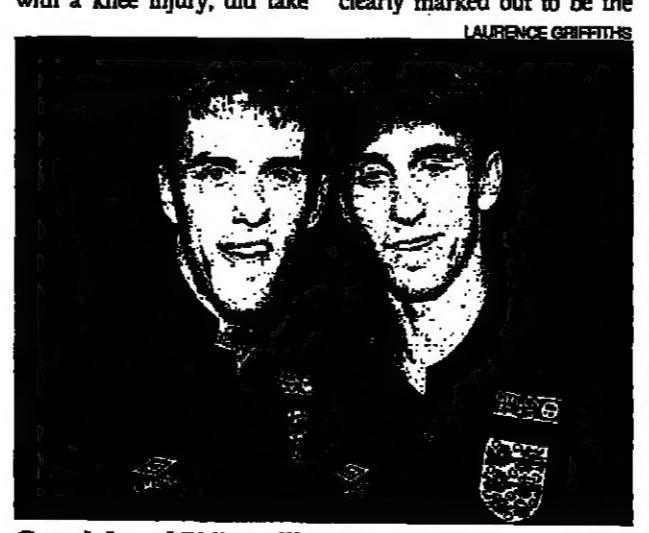
"I don't see why they should not play for England for years to come," Terry Venables, the England coach, said. "They're good professionals, very level-headed and to get them at this young age speaks volumes for them." Yet, though Phil will win his first cap and Gary his tenth, neither was the first international in the family. Sister Tracey has played netball for England.

"It's an incredible thing for the family being able to turn on the television and watch

both their sons play for England," Venables added. Bury FC, where Neville Neville works as commercial manager and wife Jill as assistant secretary, will be bursting with pride. Alex Ferguson, their club manager, should be too.

If the long march has begun for the Nevilles, yesterday will be remembered as the long walk for many of the England party, who were guided the wrong way up the Great Wall and climbed more than 800 metres when they could have used the cable car. The views from the top were well worth the effort, but 45 minutes on the step machine was hardly ideal preparation for what Venables has described as a "hard test" for his team. The Nevilles and their central defensive partner, Tony Adams, recalled after four months out with a knee injury, did take

LAWRENCE GRIFFITHS



Gary, left, and Phil Neville celebrate selection yesterday

utility man in the squad, takes over the defensive role in front of the back four filled so effectively by Ince. His job will be to stop the quick breaks that, by reputation, are the hallmark of a China side lifted by the frenzied support of a 65,000 capacity crowd.

When all this is over, the Nevilles will wonder at the enormity of their achievements over the past two weeks. At Wembley, they emulated—if only for a minute or two, when Gary came on as a late substitute—the feat of the Heron brothers, Hubert and Frank, who won the Cup for Wanderers in 1876 and played for England in the same season.

Tonight, in the country that, because of its strict policy on birthrate, averages the lowest number of brothers for size of population in the world, the blond Phil and the dark Gary will become only the sixth set of brothers to line up together for England. One can safely assume they are the first pair to pocket a championship medal, an FA Cup winners' medal and an international cap within a month. Most individuals would be happy with any one of those three.

The Charltons played the first of their 22 games together 31 years ago, Bobby scoring in a 2-2 draw with Scotland at Wembley. I wonder if brotherly advice was as absent then as it was yesterday. "He's got to learn for himself," Gary said. "It's the only way."

Leading article, page 21
United seeded, page 44

WAR HORSE
AWAITS EPSOM
CALL TO ARMS

Lee's locks give no option but to cut and run

Russell Kempson on the fruits of a furore that is not to a manager's taste

Shaven, bleached or tonsled, dreadlocked, kinked or close-cropped. Footballers often head the field in follicular fashion, the sport's young bucks ever keen to show off their daring and trend-settling dash. But pineapple-shaped?

Little did Jason Lee, the Nottingham Forest forward, realise what a storm it would create when he unveiled his bizarre style on an unsuspecting public. He could not have imagined, either, that it would all end in tears, with Frank Clark, the Forest manager, placing him on the transfer list and par-banning his decoration.

"I've had no alternative but to put Jason up for sale," Clark said. "The fans could relate to him, because he put his heart and soul into everything he did, but they picked up on their mickey-taking and made his job difficult."

Clark also accused Frank Skinner and David Baddiel, presenters of *Fantasy Football League*, the cult satirical television programme, of leaving Lee's life in tatters ... or chunks. "A couple of people on TV, who know nothing, have helped Jason become victimised," he said. "It has had a bad effect on him."

Clark might have mentioned that Lee, a lanky striker signed from Southend United for £200,000, scored only one goal since the programme first featured him in the new year having scored seven before Christmas.

Though Clark tried to head off the controversy yesterday by moderating his comments, the BBC was unimpressed. "It is a light-hearted programme with good-natured banter," a spokesman said. "It is not intended to offend." Lee has twice turned down invitations to appear on the show. Yet never have a player's locks caused such a fuss. Vinnie Jones and Julian Dicks frequently prefer the bald, aggressive look; Tony Daley, the Wolverhampton Wanderers winger, has



Lee decline

seen a new club in Brazil or Paraguay, where *Ananas comosus*, of the *Bromeliaceae* family, originates from.

Debra Pieri, of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau, said yesterday: "We're extremely pleased that Mr Lee has chosen to adopt a 'pineapple' hairstyle. We are sure that, as a healthy and active sportsman with a trendy hair-do, he would be an ideal character to promote pineapples as a nutritious and cool kind of snack."

Lee's predicament has at least shed some light on an obscure yet oft-used football phrase. It sounds something like: "If he's a footballer, my posterior is a pineapple." He can at least take consolation.

MORSE

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